

Community Hall Update/Report

Just to recap, the CHC was set up by resolution at the January meeting of the Council.

Since then the committee has considered in detail all options for the establishment of a Community Hall.

Also at the January meeting the Council decided not to pursue the open market purchase of Bangors Hall as this type of sale would not be consistent with PC Financial Regulations. As the sale at the time subsequently fell through, at the June meeting the Council resolved to once again attempt negotiations with the Methodist Circuit. We were very conscious of the very strong attachment many parishioners feel towards the building for historical reasons. In response to our correspondence with them the Methodist Circuit informed us that they would "need to take advice from the circuit's solicitor and from the legal officer at the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)", adding that "a response may take some time". The next we knew was when the sale by auction via Webbers was advertised. Once again this sort of sale is not open to the PC.

The committee also considered in detail the "offer" from CC for the devolution of 0.8 acres of land at Treskinnick Cross. Initially we were told the land would be offered to us for £1. Some of us also recall a suggestion it would come with planning permission. When two months later they eventually responded to our request in June for the terms of any transfer to be put in writing it turned out that what was envisaged from their side was not a devolution for £1 but rather a 'land swap' whereby we would transfer the old parish hall site to them in return for the Treskinnick site.

Unsurprisingly at our September meeting the committee rejected the 'offer' but said "we would be favourable to considering any alternative reasonable ideas [CC] may wish to suggest". There was no response from CC. We then followed up with a resolution at our October meeting to enquire if Cornwall Council would be prepared to consider a sale of the land to PPC. While acknowledging our request CC said they would "keep [us] posted at the earliest", two months later we've heard no more from them.

Meanwhile the committee carried out a community engagement exercise to gauge the feeling of parishioners towards the establishment of a Parish/Community Hall. The result of that exercise indicated a clear desire for Poundstock to have its own hall for the benefit of parishioners. One of the facilities many of the respondents would wish to see accompanying a hall is a children's play area. Bearing this in mind & also the fact the old hall site is so close to the A39, the committee reluctantly agreed that the site would not be suitable for a new hall & play area and as a result recommended to Full Council that the site should be sold with the proceeds used to fund the possible

establishment of a new facility.

To ensure the maximum possible return on the sale of the site, the committee agreed the cost of obtaining outline planning permission for the demolition of the old hall & its replacement with up to two houses, was justified. Currently it would appear the cost will be in the region of but possibly less than £300. At the November Full Council meeting members unanimously agreed to proceed with the planning application.

Looking to the future, it is very encouraging that only this week it has transpired that two potential sites adjacent to Bangors may very well be available to us, subject to negotiations. The mood music is very favourable!

Therefore at the next meeting of the CHC scheduled for Thursday 12 January, we will be discussing our next steps.

As ever committee members and the chair look forward to your attendance at that meeting!