

A General Parish Meeting was held in the Hut on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1955 at 7.30pm.

1. There were approximately seventy to eighty members of the Parish present.
2. Mr Moyle took the Chair initially and explained the purpose of the meeting and said that he would prefer not to take the Chair because he was a Trustee of the moneys settled for the Parish Hall and proposed that Mr Sladen should take the Chair. This was seconded and Mr Sladen then took the Chair.
3. The Chairman then explained the provisions of the Trust Deed and that the moneys which had been invested and the income which had accumulated now represented about £4,400. He also said that he had received a letter from Great Bealings Parish Council to the effect that the Parish council had passed a resolution that they did not think any action should be taken for at least two years as they would be more money available if the erection of the Village Hall were delayed. The Chairman pointed out that this was not necessarily an expression of opinion by the Parish as a whole and that the Trustees of the deed might not consider this sufficient and would wish to have the opinion of Great Bealings Parish as a whole as expressed at a meeting of their Parish. Mr Lightfoot, one of the trustees, said that he agreed with this and that as a Trustee he would want to know that the Parish as a whole had been consulted before any decision was reached.
4. The Chairman also suggested to the meeting that there were only three resolutions they could pass if they wished to pass any resolutions at the meeting namely:-
  - a) That the Parish did not wish to have a new Village Hall at all.
  - b) That the Parish wished to have a Village Hall but that the matter be delayed for the time being for an indefinite or specified period.
  - c) That the Parish wished to avail themselves now of the moneys and to proceed with the erection of the Village Hall.
5. The Chairman then asked Mr Reid of the County Hall to give some of his experiences with other Village Halls and to explain the position regarding grants from the Government. Mr Reid then explained the position regarding Village Halls and gave his opinions which were briefly as follows:-
  - a) That a Grant from the Government could now be obtained and that on the figures of the moneys available from the Trust a Grant of about £2000 entirely free of any repayment or interest could be obtained.
  - b) That for the moneys available a very adequate Village Hall could be built and that if it were so built there should be a first class floor for dancing and facilities for other recreation including a good stage.
  - c) That from his experience a good Village Hall could be made to pay its way particularly if the Hall incorporated labour saving devices which with the moneys available could be done. He also expressed his opinion that the existing halls in both parishes were not adequate for the size of the two parishes.
  - d) He also explained that there was no guarantee that the grant which could now be obtained would be necessarily available in a few years time and would of course depend on the economic position of the Country.
6. There were various discussions by the members and it was proposed and seconded that Little Bealings Parish wished to avail itself now of the moneys settled for the purposes of a New Village Hall and to proceed with the erection of it in accordance with the terms of the Trust.

7. After the Chairman had invited further discussion the proposition was put to the vote and on a show of hands sixty seven persons signified their approval no persons voted against the proposition and a few persons abstained from voting.
8. The Chairman then signified that he would inform the Parish Council of the resolution for them to endorse if they thought fit and that he would also inform the Chairman of Great Bealings Parish Council of the resolution.
9. A vote of thanks was proposed and seconded to Mr Tallents for his most generous gift and the Chairman was asked to write to him accordingly.
10. The meeting was then declared closed.

J.R. Moyle  
16/3/55