

REPORT OF MEETING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE WINDMILL HALL

Meeting of the Adult Education Committee Feb. 8th 1978

08/26

MINUTES.

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- ① Mr Drake, chairman, first welcomed all those present. Apologies had been received from Mr. M. Robins (Adult Education Committee treasurer)

The following were present :- Mrs Shilcock, Mr. Drake, Mr. Bond, Mr. Mitchell
Adult Education Committee Mr. Hindley, Mr. Isaac.

Mrs Maskery and Mrs Powell (Deddingdon Playgroup) Mrs Bowen (W.I.) Mrs Macgregor (Mothers and Toddlers)
Mrs Hudson (Cubs) Mrs Rampley (Guides, Deddingdon Ladies, Mothers Union, PTA)
Mrs Rignall (Brownies) Mr. Stammers (Scouts) Mr. Smith (Badminton Club)
Also present was Mr. C. Welford (Chairman of Parish Council) - observer

② Report of action so far concerning Hall

Mr. Drake said that the Committee had, with the blessing of the Parish Council, written to Mr. Twigger of the County Council, asking him about the best way to proceed in discovering if the Hall could be taken over on a long lease by the Community. His reply had been delayed but he had indicated in January that the County Council would be keen to discuss such a step with parish councillors. The Adult Education Committee could not negotiate with the County, as they were in part the servants of the County. The only group with sufficient permanence, who could take responsibility for the Hall, would be the Parish Council. The Parish Council had decided to hold exploratory talks through 4 councillors meeting 4 representatives of county council departments on Friday 17 February at 3pm.

③ The Purpose of the present meeting

At a Parish Council meeting Mr. Ward had said that he thought that before any talks with county officials it should first be known whether there was in fact general support for taking over the Hall. The present meeting had been called for this reason and in order to inform a wide group of interested persons about what was happening. Mr. Drake ended by saying he was pleased that so many groups had expressed interest by their attendance.

Mr Hindley said that he did not think it necessary for full support to be shown at this meeting. Once the Parish Council knew the full extent of possible terms of lease, the people of Deddingdon would have something concrete to decide upon.

Mr. Bond added that he also thought it too early to ask groups in the village for definite commitment to use the hall - in any case Steeple Aston Hall ran very successfully without any fixed guaranteed commitment by any group.

The Meeting agreed that there was a general concern about the future of the Hall and that if satisfactory terms for the lease were achieved, then would be the time for a campaign to show people the possibilities and let them decide.

④ Detailed Discussion of Hall

The question arose as to whether the Hall could stand alone without the facilities provided by the surrounding buildings (eg lavatories, water, heating etc). It was agreed that it would be necessary for these facilities to be available until such time as Kitchen, lavatories etc could be added to the hall. Mr. Cliff Smith said that in cases of improvements to Parish Halls, if the parish could raise 25% of the cost of improvements, the County would often provide 25% and the Department of Education and Science 50%. The Meeting felt that if long term leasing proved possible along the lines of the precedent of Littlemore Hall, it should surely be possible

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for the parish to raise money for such improvements.

Who would run the Hall if a long term lease could be obtained?

The Parish council had made no commitment of any support from the rates and they clearly would not do so unless there was a large movement in favour of it. If the Parish Council did decide that the terms of lease were right and that the project was feasible they would probably want to delegate the running of the Hall to a committee. This might or might not be the present Committee. It was agreed that for the moment the rôle of the Adult Education Committee should be:-

- a) to promote debate and conversation about the Hall.
- b) to work for the continuance of Adult Education at the Centre.

The future of Adult Education in Deddington

There are at present $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours of classes in the Centre spread over 3 evenings and one morning per week. Since the Warriner ESN unit had moved on the whole position of adult education classes had become very unsure. Mrs Kate Shilcock, organizing secretary, believed that her resignation, necessitated by moving from the district, would draw attention to the Centre's uneconomic position. She believed that the centre would either have to expand, put on all classes on one evening, or close down. The classes running at the moment were well attended, although the majority of those attending came from outside the parish. The classes were popular and some people preferred classes at Deddington to bigger centres, even though lack of equipment and rules about not putting on exam classes or vocational courses, which clashed with larger centres, did limit the type of courses available. It would, Mrs Shilcock said, be better if in future the organizing secretary lived in Deddington as this would make it much easier to get voluntary support. At the moment someone was, for instance, needed to help with the crèche provided for mothers attending the morning pottery class.

Mrs Rignell asked if the choice of evenings for courses could be more flexible as she would have liked to attend some classes but they clashed with the Brownies.

The Meeting agreed that if at all possible they would like to see a continuation of Adult Education in Deddington as it was an important amenity for Deddington people.

Misc. Singing and Dancing Licence

Mr. Bond agreed to make an appearance at the Magistrates Court to secure the renewal of this licence for the Hall. The probable date for renewal would be Monday March 13th.

IT WAS AGREED THAT ALL THOSE PRESENT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. MINUTES OF THIS MEETING SHOULD BE SENT TO THEM FOR THE CLUBS/SOCIETIES THEY REPRESENTED AND THAT OTHER GROUPS SHOULD BE SENT COPIES IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NEXT MEETING.

IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD A MEETING ON :-

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8th AT 8PM WINDMILL SCHOOL

By this time parish councillors would have met county officials, the whole Parish Council would have discussed the matter and a report would have appeared in the News letter.

PLEASE DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF THE HALL AND
ADULT EDUCATION IN YOUR GROUPS AND WITH YOUR FRIENDS