

PARKFIELD_HOUSE
HOGBEN'S HILL
SELLING FAVERSHAM
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The chairman and all members of our parish council.

15-05-2022

Dear ladies and gentlemen.

I was a member of this noble assembly for 35 years, about 10 as vice chairman and 6 as chairman.

During my period of tenure, I had a vision that the existing village hall would sometime in the future, become outdated, and a new one would be an improved asset to our village. I brought this matter up at one of our annual parish meetings, which was treated with a certain amount of contempt, with every conceivable reason expressed to totally reject the idea. At that point it was obviously a no go at that time, and I did not peruse it any further. However, in recent times I have thought it is probably reasonable to raise the matter again.

I have in general conversation with some current residents suggesting that in my opinion the existing hall is now out dated, which has in most cases been accepted as a good idea, It is costly to maintain, and very costly to keep warm in the colder months. Car parking close by is now more than ever, almost impossible, and to park in the school car park is a very long way away for many people, especially the elderly or those with a physical impairment, and exactly very uncomfortable for all in inclement weather.

A new building, on a better sight, would improve access and provision of much better parking facilities. I would like to think a modern building with a larger public accommodation area for letting purposes, persons wishing to hire it for all sorts of reasons, wedding receptions, anniversary gatherings, exhibitions etc. (the list could be endless). Also, to include an anti-room for smaller gatherings, i.e the parish council meetings. There would be much improved kitchen and wash room facilities, perhaps a larger stage for entertainment, and a host of other improvements.

To many of us, the existing hall is one that we have grown up with, and dearly love as it is. However, we must accept that whether we like it or not, time changes everything, and we must adjust our own lives to keep up with so many things that affect us all. Since it was donated to the parish, the village population has probably doubled and will soon rise more if the current proposals to erect a further 70 or so houses by Winterbourne Developments, does take place. I therefor believe that it is not unreasonable to request that all current members of our council give this whole idea careful consideration, and then, if agreed, the setting up an appropriate charity fund, to raise money to allow this to happen. There would need to be professional people employed to administer the Legal and financial matters and control. There are numerous opportunities to ask for grants to help swell the funds and no doubt many other ways as well. I fully understand this will take several years to achieve, but there has to be a start date which I hope would be in the not too distant future.

Sincerely

John Hogben