

NPWG Report for Parish Council Meeting: 24th October 2024

Construction Update

The regular monthly meeting with Draper and Nicholls was held on 3rd October. It was reported that work is now principally taking place fitting out and finishing the interior of the hall and laying the paving slabs around the exterior. The interior is now largely decorated. Finishing work, such as the installation of the main hall dividing screen, has been held up by the delay to the installation of the vinyl flooring, which could not be installed until the underfloor heating was properly commissioned and the floor screed given adequate time to dry. It is anticipated that the fitting of the flooring in the main hall will have commenced on Wednesday 23rd October, with the remainder of the hall finished next week.

Externally, the paving to the pre-school entrance is in place, and work is continuing on the main entrance and ground raising in the patio area, to facilitate the laying of the slabs. The metal stairs to the playing field are in place, and ready to be finished off as part of the patio completion. The meeting room portacabin has been removed, and it is hoped to remove the temporary office building by the beginning of November.

D&N have informed us that the handover date has been extended beyond the previously anticipated date of 25th October, due to the unavailability of plasterers and bad weather. They are now working to handover the hall to the Parish Council on Friday 8th November, subject to there being no further delays caused by issues beyond their control. Our project managers have been asked to investigate whether the claimed delays can all be justified in terms of the construction contract, given the additional costs to the Parish Council accruing from them.

The New Pavilion Working Group

The group met on 7th October and the meeting minutes have already been circulated. The meeting discussed progress with the project, funding, and what needs to be undertaken to facilitate the opening of the hall in November. A series of action points and responsibilities were listed under the regular topic headings agreed by the group.

An update of the points set down in 6.1 of the Parish Council agenda can be discussed at the meeting.

Whilst there is now more time than anticipated to agree the resolution of the funding shortfall, and agree management policies and procedures, booking arrangements, and furniture and equipment procurement, it is important that all directly involved in the project know what progress has been made, so duplication of work is avoided, and any omissions identified.

Can I therefore ask that Dan and myself be kept informed of any meetings, or their outcome, particularly if they have budgetary implications for the project.

The Pre-School

The pre-school staff have visited the hall and have investigated the purchase of furniture, trolleys, and storage racks, that will be necessary to facilitate the dual usage of their part of the main hall. The funding raised from the 75@75 cycling challenge has now raised over £1400 and has been used to purchase some of this equipment.

The pre-school requested at the NPWG meeting that it does not want to relocate to the new hall until Monday 18th November, to give it sufficient time to move, and to provide certainty for staff and parents. This will have cost implications for the additional hire of the temporary building, and the project managers will have to be advised asap so the hire company can be informed, when the unit is to be removed.

Finally, can I again thank the members of the Working Group for their continuing hard work and commitment throughout the project, but particularly in recent weeks, to provide Stoke Holy Cross with the type of Community Hall it deserves!

Glyn Davies – Chair, New Pavilion Working Group