

## NPWG Report for Parish Council Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### The New Pavilion Working Group

A meeting of the NPWG was held on 25th June. It was reported that there has been interest expressed by various groups in using the hall space and these are being followed up. We are still awaiting the outcome of the two outstanding grant applications for air conditioning and the installation of Electrical vehicle charging points and should hear about these soon. There is also a pending promise from EDF of a contribution to the solar panels subject to progress with their own local project.

In addition to funding, items that urgently need to be agreed for the business plan are the forecast of income and running costs for the new hall. The next meeting is scheduled to be on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July in the Church Hall, but may be rescheduled given that the next Builders Update has been put back to 1<sup>st</sup> August. **It is requested that as many Parish Councillors as possible attend the meeting, as there are a variety of issues that need to be discussed and agreed!**

### Construction Update

Construction of the new hall is still making steady progress, with the solar panels in place and most of the roof tiles installed. The recent bad weather has again set back the handover date as no fitting out work could take place inside until the interior safety 'birdcage' scaffolding was removed and the floor screed laid. The birdcage was removed on 11<sup>th</sup> July and the screeding should take place over the next fortnight some 8 weeks later than originally planned in January. It is now anticipated that the building will not be complete until September 6<sup>th</sup> and its handover may be pushed back to the middle of September, or even later, given the ongoing construction complications, the inclement weather, and the consequent phasing problems.

The next stages of construction will involve:

- The completion of the roof and the removal of the exterior scaffolding
- The commencement of the installation of the glazing and doors and exterior cladding
- The commencement of the interior first fixes once the floor screeding is in place

**Members of the Parish Council are invited for a first tour of the interior on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 12.00am**

### The Pre-School

The forecast delay means that the relocation of the pre-school into the new hall will not be possible at the start of the Autumn term as previously planned. Consequently, the pre-school will have to remain in the temporary classroom into the new term. This is unfortunate as it means that the temporary classroom will also have to be hired over the 6-week summer holiday period in addition to the hire during the Autumn term, whereas it was due to be removed at the end of July. There would appear to be little alternative for this course of action unless the pre-school delays its opening in the Autumn term, which is not feasible, and the extended hire has therefore been arranged. **Hence the Parish Council is asked to note the extended hire period of the temporary classroom until the new hall is available.**

### The Budget

The most recent financial report indicates that the construction and fitting out costs are now approximately £100,000 over the original contract sum of £796,514.50. This is a reflection of the cost of the 'extra additions' requested by the Parish Council such as air conditioning, the larger kitchen, the extended temporary classroom hire, and other items that weren't in the original contracted specification, such as our own consultants' fees. Much of the funding is already in place to meet this overspend on the final cost. It is likely however that additional funding will be required to meet the cost of the additional completion time, and for the provision of essential fitting out items that need to be in place when the hall opens. Our consultants have been investigating the validity of the reasons given for the handover delay, as set down in the 'relevant matters' of the Contract of Employment, that the Parish Council signed up to. The outcome of this will be reported to a future Parish Council meeting.

**It is important however that the Parish Council decides what will be essential equipment when the hall opens, and addresses the options for meeting any financial shortfall, as soon as practically possible. Orders can then be placed so the new hall has at least basic furniture and fittings in place when it opens. An opportunity for such a discussion about what is considered essential and for further fund-raising possibilities, will arise at the next NPWG meeting.**

Glyn Davies – Chair NPWG

