

Buxted Community Hall Trust meeting Monday 6th November 2017 - Draft minutes
extract.

G. Claydon Company Secretary.

The Trustees acknowledge that they have been made aware by the Parish Council that some residents have voiced opposition to the new hall proposal and its location, primarily on the grounds that there has been a lack of consultation with local residents. These matters were discussed by the trustees at some length and our response is as follows:

It is now some eight years since the first public consultations and since local groups and societies began contributing to the efforts to provide a new village hall facility. Newer residents to the village may not be aware of this process, or indeed of the fact that the BCHT has held FIVE public AGMs at which residents have been encouraged to come forward and support the project. Also, during the considerable number of years both before and since the BCHT was registered as a charitable company on 11th May 2011, the BCHT board (or its earlier unincorporated body HOBI) has attended many other meetings including annual parish assemblies, and held some exhibitions and well supported fundraising events etc, with no formal objections having been voiced about the new hall project. However, extensive discussions were held between the Buxted Players, BCHT and the architect essentially about the lack of a fixed stage provision which basically could not be provided due to hall size constraints - otherwise the Players were supportive of the new hall, parking etc. Improving the Reading Room was certainly an option that was investigated at the outset. However, because of the restrictions of its site (including concerns about an increased level of on-street parking), the strict conditions concerning the way the S.106 funding may be used, and the great opportunity presented by the Ionides Land to provide the village with a popular modern facility at its heart, the decision was taken to pursue a modern new-build on the Ionides Trust land in Framfield Road.

A great deal of time, effort and money has been expended to take the planning and building regulations applications to their "full consent" position, with a significant level of involvement, consultation and compromise between the many local societies and their requests and requirements. Any delay now would inevitably mean that the consent would lapse thus rendering all these efforts etc, wasted.

Taking all these matters into consideration, the trustees unanimously decided to continue with the tender selection and acceptance processes that are actually to be finalised within the next few days and to commence the new hall Phase 1 building works in due course as previously planned in order to secure the Planning Permission. Immediate benefits of this Phase 1 work are that it creates a much improved entrance to the Ionides Trust land and better access to their hall for the Scouts.