

WELNEY PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

Draft report of the EGM held on 17th February 2003.

Present: **Marlen Moss-Eccardt (Vice-Chair)**
 Peter Cox (Treasurer) **Amy Markham**
 Sylvia Kent **Tony Lewis**
 Margaret Levesley **Steve Kerr**

Apologies: **Lesley Gardiner** **Elisabeth Deckker (Present at end of mgt)**

Action

1. The meeting was convened by the Committee in accordance with clause 7 (e) of its Constitution in response to a letter dated 12th January 2003 signed by ten parishioners who were concerned about the Committee's management and some recent actions of the Committee, in particular those concerning a New Parish Hall and accounting procedures.

The signatories were: Nigel Fleming, Tim Bennett, Ian Warrington, Mark Farrow, Ian Shirley, John Loveday, Shirley Johnson, Denis Booth, David Bonner and Greg Maton.

The letter requested the Committee to resign, and the Welney Parish Council to assume responsibility and establish a new body with a clearly defined remit.

About *[thirty?]* members of the public attended the meeting, including most signatories of the letter. Also present were Mr Richard Green who was a member and Chair of the Committee from 29th October 2002 until his resignation on 22nd January 2003, and Mrs Carol Green who was a member and Secretary of the Committee from 27th November 2002 until she also resigned on 22nd January 2003.

2. The Vice-Chair invited one of the signatories to come forward and put their case. Tim Bennett then read a lengthy statement putting forward the case for the resignation of the Committee.

Mr Bennett began by saying that it should not have been necessary to present this case as the Committee should have resigned. He praised the hard work of many members over many years, but suggested that in recent years things had begun to go wrong.

He said there were four main complaints, summarised below the complaints under four headings:

- (1) The Committee's remit and constitution. He questioned whether

the Committee had the right to undertake work of a Capital nature and suggested that their remit was to maintain the existing building. He pointed out that under clause 8(g) capital expenditure had to be agreed by Parishioners at an AGM or EGM, and that had not been done.

- (2) Financial irregularities. Significant gaps in the accounts had been identified by Mr Ian Shirley after he had been asked to Audit them in August 2002 by the then Treasurer, in particular a lack of bank statements. Mr Bennett said that this had been a concern of several Committee members
- (3) The Village Lottery
- (4) The proposed New Hall.

3 Following that, Mrs Margaret Levesley read out a lengthy response.

4 Mr Tony Lewis, who joined the Committee on 27th November 2002, produced a letter from Mrs T.Roberts together with a petition supporting the Committee's decision to build a New Hall on the existing site even though the petitioners acknowledged they did not fully know the plans. The petition contained 18 names including several children. 16 were from, or "c/o" addresses in Chestnut Avenue (five were from one family) and two were from Mr Lewis's own family. One petitioner gave an address outside the Parish.

5

The Vice-Chair then allowed Richard Green to address the meeting from the floor. This should not have been allowed as the EGM was specifically for the ten signatories to put their case and for the Committee to respond. After a few moments, Peter Cox, the Committee Treasurer, walked out in protest at Mr Green's speech. .

MME