

Perran-ar-Worthal Village Memorial Hall

Draft of letter to Colin Bridge & Chairman of P.A.Q. Parish Council (meeting on 28th March 2018)

Dear.....

Reference the question & answer article in the March issue of Perran News regarding changes to the organisation and running of Perran-ar-Worthal Village Memorial Hall

Implications made in this article regarding changes that HAVE already been made to the organisation and running of the Village Hall, greatly concern the undersigned, Hugh Kneebone & Pat Ward, both former members of the V.H.C. who were in office at the time of the rebuild and opening in 1971.

In this process of change were members of the Parish Council or local residents formally consulted on the advisability or even asked for approval of such changes?

We have been given the impression from the article that you feel the V.H. has in the past been run by an unthinking and perhaps amateurish fashion without consultation. The constitution was originally created with the advice and consultation of the National Council of Social Services, which was the national advisory body for all UK Village Halls at the time (late 1960's/70's). The Parish Council were to be the "guardians" of the Village Hall should anything occur that the hall committee ceased to exist. As the Parish Council now have no role to play – what consideration has been given to the possibility (however small) should the Village Hall and its new Trustees cease to exist?

The Charitable status granted to the Village Hall Committee in the 1970's was the type of status that was in being at that time – also advised by the N.A.V.H.V via the Council of Social Services. Times change and need to upgrade understandable – but approval locally should surely have been sort?

As far as giving the Hall a new name, we understand the need to be "in the 21st century", but fear that the place will always be known as the "village hall" – the new name of "Perranwell Centre" may well be thought to be a completely different building. The official Title was long but explained its place and connection within the Parish.

The formal name of "Perran-ar-Worthal Village Memorial Hall", was the one chosen for the original hall built around 1946, from 3 Nisson Huts, purchased for the price of 2, after the second World War, hence the reference to "memorial", it was nothing to do with the King George V Memorial Fund for the Playing Field, just a reference to those who died in the war period. The name was purely carried on as the new build replaced the old. Whilst we approve of the hall being used for a large variety of organisations – as the present new build was designed to do, - changing the name may well confuse. We are not ashamed to call the place a "village hall" for that is what it is, we have no doubt that many others will have the same view.

For such a major change in the way the place is run our biggest and most concerning question is; who approved the changes of Committee-ship to Trustee-ship? Just the present committee without even a proposal/resolution put at an Annual General Meeting or perhaps more correctly a Special General Meeting?

It has been very pleasing to those involved in setting up the present hall, that the upkeep and alterations made by current committees have kept to a useful and high standard, Pat visits many village and community halls in the county giving talks, and still puts the P.a.W. Hall high on the list of well kept and well used ones. By all means think of the future, but do not be ashamed of the present hall – it still fits a very important role in village life. NB we are not yet classified as a "town" and probably never will be.

Signed H Kneebone & P Ward

16th March 2018