**Glemsford Village Hall: the proposed extension**

November 2020

At last, the plans for the extension of our village hall are with Babergh District Council and can be seen on their planning portal. Many of you attended a meeting last year to express your support for this venture but it may be news to some of you. To recap, the plans are to bring the village hall into this century by providing extra facilities so it can be used by many more groups in a variety of different ways. We are planning for a new multi-function meeting room with facilities to display some of our heritage material. It will be smaller than the main hall so people who don’t need a large space will be able to meet. This is also intended to encourage one off use, perhaps by children’s parties, bazaars, fairs or a presentation by the council or planners (for more suggestions, see below). We are aiming to equip this area with up to date technology and there will be access to the new kitchen which will connect both to the main hall and to this new area. It will give greater flexibility so that one group booking will still leave the rest of the hall available for others. A new porch at the front will ensure less heat loss and easier access. The main hall will offer more space, more storage and easy access to the land at the rear of the building, meaning that events in the summer can be held there. We are also looking at the possibility of including a removable stage to encourage dramatic and other events. This is an exciting venture and it will benefit the people of Glemsford for a long while to come.

We aim to fund this venture mainly by raising a loan with the Public Works Loan Board. The good news is that, due to careful husbanding of our resources, there will not need to be a rise in our precept (precept is the Parish Council’s share of the council tax and is converted into an amount per council tax band and is added to your council tax bill), but we do need your support and we need it soon. Quite rightly, the PWLB does not hand out taxpayers’ money easily; we need to demonstrate that the village will use this new facility and it will benefit our community.

If you have not seen the plans, please go online to look at them:

<https://planning.baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

We would ask you either as a group, society or individual, to show your support in the following ways:

1) Email (council@glemsfordpc.co.uk) stating why you are in favour. The more detail you could provide, the stronger our case becomes. (See below)

2) Write to the Parish Council clerk (Glemsford Parish Council, The Village Hall, Tye Green, Glemsford, CO10 7RH)

Please think of ways in which these new facilities could be used by you, your groups, your societies. It does not have to be regular; it does not have to be throughout the year and please contact anyone not listed below and encourage them to take part. The better the response, the better our chances of making this bid a reality.

Pre Covid users: Yoga, Bounce, Beau and Arrow Dance, Paint n Plonk, Carpet Bowls Society, Woodlands Children’s group, Glemsford Library, The Friday Café, Messy Church, Kurling Club and Beavers. Potential users who attended or communicated with the original meeting: Glemsford Local History Society, Gardening Club, Playing Fields Group.

Other activities an extended village hall and its grounds could be used for:

amateur dramatics; antique fairs; ballroom dancing; band practice; barbeques; blood donor centre; book fairs; bridge/whist; childminder groups; club meetings; coffee mornings; community information point; community singing group; computer classes; craft fairs; crèche; day centre;

discos; doctors surgery; dog training; exhibitions; farmers market; fashion shows; first aid training; flower arranging group; folk music nights; fundraising events; gardening club; harvest supper;

health visitors baby weighing; holiday clubs; hobby workshops; judo; jumble sales; karate; keep fit; kick boxing; kids club; lectures; life skills training; line dancing; literacy and numeracy classes; majorettes; meals on wheels; meditation groups; MPs surgery; music concerts;

OAP lunch club; parenting classes; parties; photography club; playgroup; pre-school; scouts; sequence dancing; slimming club; snooker/pool; sport for disabled; support groups; table tennis; tai chi; touring theatre companies. U3A; wedding receptions; women’s groups; WI; youth club, Zumba.