

# BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr A House

Bradfield Village Hall Trustees

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28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

To the Bradfield Village Hall Management Committee,

Bradfield Parish Council met on 27<sup>th</sup> September to discuss its reasons for non-support of the development of the new hall. All councillors agreed that a new hall is required.

Prior to the meeting, all councillors independently submitted their reasons for non-support to the clerk, who incorporated them into a list grouped under various headings. One of these headings related to personnel issues (which it was not felt appropriate to discuss) and included issues with individual councillors being made to feel blamed for the lack of funding raised to date. It should be noted that the Council is a corporate body, elected by parishioners (even if it was an uncontested election).

However, the main reasons for non-support are:

**1. Transparency/Openness.**

Without minutes and information being shared with, at least, the Parish Council and preferably the whole community, there is often a lack of understanding of the project which is necessary for support to be offered. A lack of openness leads to the suspicions and a feeling of secrecy which does not gain confidence. Clearly some information is sensitive, but there needs to be a much greater level of information available.

**2. Finances.**

There is concern from councillors about how the funds required to build the new hall will be raised. Councillors are concerned about the risk of an increase in precept, but this could only happen after a referendum.

Since the revised Business Plan was reviewed, the economic climate has moved on. The estimated total build cost has increased by circumstances, but BPC needs to have a better understanding of the financial situation so that any potential need for a loan can be anticipated and planned for.

The Parish Council looks forward to being able to offer the project its support.

Yours sincerely,

*Helen Pratt*

Helen Pratt - Clerk to Bradfield Parish Council