**Community Centre Proposals.**

The Parish Council had an informal meeting with Community Centre Working Group on 24th September and the paper, previously circulated, formed the basis of the discussion. The following extracts probably summarise the main proposals made by the working group.

In view of the interests of the parish council (PC) in the matter, and of the absence of any other body to represent community opinion, the PC established the Community Centre Working Group earlier this year to explore the way forward. This report presents the preliminary proposals of that group. In short, they are that the PC should:

• take on the management of the community centre, and

• commit to fund what is likely to be an annual shortfall between the income and running costs for the centre, notwithstanding charges being made for use of the facilities.

Whatever future management arrangements are adopted, if the PC agrees to the above proposals a formal agreement would have to be drawn up between the PC and RCC. In this, RCC would undertake to provide/maintain the community centre building, and the PC would undertake to manage the centre for the community, in accordance with agreed procedures. Additionally, an agreement between the PC and the school (governors) would set out the details of a necessarily co- operative relationship between the school and the community – not least addressing the basis for charging by the school for the supply of utilities to the Community Centre (which costs might be offset by the residual school use of the Community Wing).

The working recommended the following management structure.

Management of the Centre by the PC in its Statutory Capacity

Administratively, this is probably the simplest arrangement; there is no need for a separate constitution, bank account, external reporting or formal accounting (although it would be appropriate to maintain a separate accounting ledger for the Centre, including a funding account for purchases). Meetings would be in public, and all statutory procedures would apply.

The PC would probably wish to manage the Centre through a PC committee, co-opting several community volunteers (who would not have voting rights).

The overall costs of taking over the community centre are obviously pertinent and the working group has had further discussions both concerning costs and refurbishment of the community centre. RCC have confirmed that they will undertake refurbishment and upkeep of the building. Syd Overington, chair of the working group, has estimated that the running costs for 2020/21 would at the most would be £2000 (RCC might recommend a budget for £2100.00 per annum over the next 5 years) but could be considerably less given negotiation with the school/RCC.

The decision that the PC has to make is whether to take on the management of the Community Centre.