

POTTED HISTORY OF HOLMWOOD VILLAGE HALL.

The Sub-Committee came into existence from the original committee formed to Celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

The Sub-Committee brief was to look into the possibility of building a Village Hall for Holmwood.

The first meeting took place on the 14th July, 1902 with the Rev. Gill in the Chair.

It would appear that the Rev. Edward Dawe Wickham had purchased a piece of land in Warwick Road for the purpose of building a Hall and this land was in the care of the Trustees, Rev. Wickham died in 1894.

The Committee's first objective was to find a piece of land on which to build as the site in Warwick Road was not popular and some objections had been received and they wanted to build as near to the main road as possible. Alternative sites were investigated the most popular being at the top of the drive to Moor Lodge opposite the bus layby at Betchetts Green Road. However, there were many obstacles in relation to this site and others on the common mainly because of local byelaws.

There were many meetings and many arguments and retirements from the Committee but finally because of the many problems it was finally decided that the site in Warwick Road would be the one, even that was not without its difficulties because it seems that some of the Clauses attached to the Deeds were not acceptable, but again after a long and with the help of Mr. Downs of Downs Solicitors in Dorking all was resolved.

In October 1903 a Deed of Assignment of lease of the land in Warwick Road taking the responsibility from the Trustees and giving full responsibility to the Vicar and succeeding Vicars. There were concerns that this gave the Vicar too much power but eventually this was adopted.

There were house to house collection for funds in 1904 and an anonymous donor gave £1,000.00. A lot of money 100+ years ago.

Mr. Manning who was using the land as an allotment asked for a sum of £3.00 in compensation for the loss of this facility and the short notice of tenure. This was agreed to and he was subsequently paid.

Mr.Barlow was the architect and plans were eventually passed.

Tenders were sent out and the following submitted estimates.

W.Pierce (Holmwood)	£1,970.08.00
Fencing	370.8.00
Total	£2.007.16.00

If zinc was used instead of lead a saving of £14.05.09

Canter (Westcott)	£1,753.00.00
Fencing	£34.00.00
Total	£1,787.00.00

Zinc saving £13.13.00

King (Abinger)	£1,828.00.00
Fencing	£39.00.00
Total	£1,867.00.00

Zinc saving £21.00.00

Cummins (Dorking)	£1,673.05.06
Fencing	£36.12.00
Total	£1,709.17.06

Zinc saving £20.07.06

Colls (Dorking)	£1,793.00.00
Fencing	£38.00.00
Total	£1,831.00.00

Zinc saving £24.00.00

Roland (Horsham)	£1,609.00.00
Fencing	£34.00.00

	Total	£1,643.00.00
Zinc	saving	£12.10.00
Pledge (Dorking)		£1,750.12.09
	Fencing	£35.07.09
	Total	£1,786.00.06
Zinc	saving	£21.07.09

Roland Bros of Horsham were given the project and lead was chosen and not the zinc.

The service of the laying of the Foundation Stone took place on the 29th September, 1904 at 4.00 o'clock the officiating minister was Bishop Ingham Bishop of Sierra Leone and the stone was laid by Mrs. Bosworth Smith daughter of the late Rev. Wickham. A special trowel was purchased for this occasion and given to Mrs. Bosworth Smith. Under the foundation stone is a bottle containing papers and coins.

Unfortunately there are no minutes beyond January 1905.

In 1984 it became obvious that major expenditure was required for the roof of the main hall, this was beyond being raised by the then Management Committee and so it was proposed that the Parish Council become Managing Agents, after public meetings it was decided that the Parish Council should become the Managing Agents for the Holmwood Village Hall for a period of five years and then renewable for a further time. This has recently come up for renewal.

