

ELLISFIELD

MEMORIAL HALL

HISTORY.

This Hall was built by public subscription as a memorial to those men of the Parish of Ellisfield who lost their lives in the Great War of 1914—1918 (See oak tablet on wall for list of names).

The site of the hall was given by Beatrice, Countess of Portsmouth. The building was formerly opened to the public on 28th October, 1920, by Mrs. Botry Pigott.

THE TRUST DEED.

The Deed conveying the land to Trustees, to hold on behalf of the Parish, stipulates what the Hall shall be used for and how it shall be managed. The relevant paragraphs in the Deed read as follows:—

Para 2. The Trustees, . . . shall hold the said hereditaments hereby conveyed upon trust to permit the same to be used in perpetuity as a site for, and the purposes of, a Village Hall for the benefit of the inhabitants from time to time of the Village of Ellisfield aforesaid, for the advancement of the Education, Religion and Recreation of such inhabitants.

Para 3. The management and control of the Trust premises shall be vested in a Committee which shall consist of the Trustees, or Trustee, and the Rector and Churchwardens for the time being of the Parish of Ellisfield.

Para 4. The Committee may at any time permit the said hereditaments, or any part thereof, to be used upon such terms and conditions, and either for payment or not as they may think fit, for entertainments or meetings for the education or recreation of persons from time to time entitled to use the same as aforesaid and their friends or for any other charitable purposes connected with the said Village and the neighbourhood within a distance of three miles therefrom.

Para 5. All moneys received by the Committee in respect of such charges or otherwise under or for the purposes of these presents shall be applied in repairing and improving any buildings for the time being erected thereon and keeping the same and the furniture and effects from time to time therein insured against fire and in paying all rates, taxes and other outgoings from time to time becoming payable in respect thereof and in paying all expenses of carrying on the Trust premises or otherwise in executing the trusts and powers herein contained.

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.

The Trustees at the present time are : Harry Hoare, Esquire, J.P., of Ellisfield Manor, G. H. F. Cannon, Esquire, M.A. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, of Brocas, and Captain E. J. Guinness, D.S.C., R.N. (retired), of Widmore Farm, and they, together with the Rector and Churchwardens, constitute the body (hereinafter called the Trust Committee) responsible under the Trust Deed, for the management and control of the property. In pursuance of this obligation, the Trust

Committee have deemed it to be in the best interests of the Village that the actual everyday running of the Hall should be undertaken by a body of persons elected at the Annual Public Meeting and, therefore, representative of all sections of the Parish. This body of persons, which will be known as The Memorial Hall Committee, shall not exceed nine members so elected, but shall have power to co-opt additional members, not exceeding three in number, who shall cease to be members on the day of the Annual Public Meeting next after their co-option. Such retiring co-opted members shall be eligible for election by the Annual Public Meeting or for re-co-option by the Memorial Hall Committee. Any casual vacancies may be filled by such Committee. Members of the Trust Committee shall be eligible for election to the Memorial Hall Committee.

The Memorial Hall Committee shall be governed by the following Rules:

1. It shall strictly adhere to the terms of the Trust Deed set out above.
2. It shall appoint a Chairman (who shall have a casting vote), a Secretary and/or Treasurer (paid or unpaid), record its proceedings in a Minute Book, keep Accounts, and maintain a Banking Account.
3. It shall be accountable to the Trust Committee for moneys received by it: all such moneys being trust moneys. The accounts shall be audited annually to the end of March, and a statement of such audited accounts together with a report on the year's proceedings, shall be sent to the Chairman of the Trust Committee not later than the second week of April each year, for approval by the Trust Committee and presentation to the Annual Public Meeting.
4. A meeting of the Parishioners (known as the Annual Public Meeting) to take place in April shall be summoned each year by the Trust Committee for the purpose of filling, by ballot, vacancies on the Memorial Hall Committee, [As the term of office of the present members of the Memorial Hall Committee expires in 1950, the Annual Public Meeting of 1950 will proceed to the election of nine members]. Of the nine elected members three shall retire annually, in rotation, on the day of the Annual Public Meeting, but they shall be eligible for re-election. The order of such retirement by rotation shall be decided by the Memorial Hall Committee. The Chairman of the Annual Public Meeting shall be nominated by the Trust Committee from one of their number.
5. The Memorial Hall Committee shall have power to make Rules and Regulations regarding the holding and conduct of their meetings and the number of persons who shall form a quorum, the care of the furniture and fittings, the conditions upon which the premises may be hired for meetings, entertainments, social gatherings and other purposes, and the amount, if any, to be paid for such use, and any other regulations necessary for the due performance of their responsibilities.

The Trust Committee desire to make it clear that they have no power to alter the terms of the Trust or to divest themselves of their responsibility under the Trust Deed for the permanent control of the premises. It will, therefore, be understood that if circumstances arise which, in the opinion of the Trust Committee, make it expedient to alter their rules for the Management of the Hall, or to modify or even to abrogate the above scheme for the Executive Management by an elected Committee, it will be their duty as well as their right to act accordingly.

Signed on behalf of the Trust Committee,

HARRY HOARE,

15th April, 1950

Chairman of the Trust Committee.