

Minutes of a special meeting held at the Merey Bells on June 8th 1967
Present FO members (in the chair) P. Aucley-Miller L. Peare A. Cambray W. Powell
P. Freeman & Hamwood & D. H. J.

Apologies from Mr Parker.

The chairman asked Mr Aucley Miller to explain matters regarding the purchase of the Merey Bells.

P. Aucley Miller explained that the chairman had received a letter from May Miller offering to sell the Merey Bells to the village for £10,000. This figure was slightly less than the valuation of the church valued. He had heard from Butterwick that if this figure were accepted, the committee would be asked to enter into a covenant on the land at the rear of the Merey Bells so that no future building should take place there. The purchase & cost of modernisation of the building would be financed as follows 50% from the Ministry of Education 25% from the Parish Council & the remainder to be raised by the committee. P. Aucley Miller said that if purchase were approved, the committee would have to pay a much more active part in promoting the interests of the hall than they do at present. Under the existing regime where the ownership of the Hall might be lost to the village at any moment, the committee was only a management committee keeping the place going but not promoting any events to finance improvements. Also with no security of tenure it was not possible to give leases to permanent tenants but only temporary agreements.

P. Aucley Miller thought that the P.M.C & Lerwick Library would support the application to purchase very strongly as without the Merey Bells, the Church & the Library would cease to exist.

Authority to proceed with negotiations was agreed unanimously. It was then agreed that some form of plan for improvements was necessary & P. Freeman said that his daughter was well advanced