

St. Clement's

PARISHIONERS AUTHORISE PAROCHIAL CL. TO PROCEED WITH MEMORIAL HALL

St. Clement's Parochial Council will have final plans prepared and call tenders for the erection of a Parish Memorial Hall to cost at least £12,000.

This was decided at a meeting of parishioners in St. Clement's Tennis Club-house on Tuesday night.

It is hoped the hall will be started at an early date, and may be completed by the end of the year.

About 70 church members, including representatives from country centres, attended the meeting.

Rev. H. P. Reynolds, who was chairman, said when the hall was completed the parish for the first time in its history, would have adequate facilities and equipment second to none in the Diocese.

ARCHITECT'S PLAN

Mr. Reynolds said a sketch plan on the back wall of the Tennis Clubhouse was prepared by an architect and embodied the Parochial Council's ideas in respect to size and layout of the proposed hall. The Parochial Council had very seriously considered the whole matter, taking into account the need for a hall not only for the present, but for the future.

He said the plans provided for a main hall 60' x 35', with a stage and dressing rooms at one end; kindergarten portion 31' x 28'; meeting room to accommodate about 30 people; kitchen and other facilities, and a foyer to link up with the kindergarten, meeting room and main hall. The plans were not necessarily final, but were a basis for discussion, and he assured the meeting that if the matter was left to the Parochial Council, that body would depart from the plan only in details. The Council thought the plans would embody what was needed for a Parish Hall and other adjuncts for the parish.

At a meeting of parishioners last May, authority was given the Parochial Council to build a hall to cost approximately £12,000, subject to approval by a further meeting of parishioners. The plan of the proposed hall was similar to that built at Ainslie, A.C.T., by a member of the church who had done a splendid job. They had had various estimates of what a hall like the Ainslie building would cost, but the Council would not be in a position to give a definite figure until a tender was accepted.

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COST MORE THAN £12,000

The present time, Mr. Reynolds continued, was considered to be favourable for building in Yass. It was possible the hall would cost more than £12,000, and they may have to let that figure slide. The Parochial Council considered that the financial position was such that they could go ahead with the building of the hall without any undue burden on the church. They had in hand just over £6,000 and had paid about £100 for sewerage work in connection with the hall. In addition last year, as the result of an appeal, £500 had been promised annually for ten years through the bank order system. That would probably be increased by another £100. There were also firm annual donations promised in lieu of bank orders. On top of that a number of parishioners promised outright donations.

Mr. Reynolds said in addition to all these amounts, other help would probably be available from such efforts as the Y.A. Ball. Mrs. W. Curll was working hard, and had already contributed £1,000 to the hall fund. He would like to see the Parochial Council given authority to go ahead with plans, call tenders and get the work started.

In moving that "this meeting of parishioners authorise the Parochial Council to proceed with the building of St. Clement's Memorial Parish Hall as soon as possible, and in accordance generally with the sketch plans considered at this meeting," Mr. W. T. Walker said he had every confidence in parishioners that they would support the hall project, even if it exceeded the £12,000 estimate. He hoped the Parochial Council would not stint the work and build something worthy of the church, town and district.

£5 WEEK INTEREST

Seconding the motion, Mr. E. R. Alchin said the sketch plans were the minimum requirements. Detailing the financial position he

were the minimum requirements. Detailing the financial position he said at the moment there was £5,000 earning almost £5 a week interest. On the assumption that

at the time of building they would have to borrow £7,000, and if no further donations were received, at the end of ten years they would still owe approximately £4,000, taking into consideration the £500 annually from bank orders. It could be expected that at the laying of the foundation stone and opening of the hall, about half that £4,000 would be received. That would reduce interest payments, and at the end of the ten years they would probably have only £2,000 owing. That would not take into account any special efforts for the hall.

Mr. Alchin said it was not intended to let the hall to outside organisations, and the building would be used only for church functions. They owed a debt of gratitude to the Rector who organised the last appeal. His effort was outstanding, and one for which the parish was grateful.

Mr. Alchin said he was optimistic regarding the financial side. "There would be something wrong if we could not get that £4,000 in ten years," he said.

The motion was supported by Mr. A. O. Barber, who said Bishop Burgmann favoured going ahead immediately.

The motion was carried unanimously.