

Future of village hall in balance

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Parish councillors in Monks Eleigh have called an extraordinary meeting on Monday to discuss the future of a new village hall.

The village has two plans – one submitted by the parish council for a new village hall on Church Hill recreation ground and one by Mesch, a community group with plans to build in the grounds of Monks Eleigh Primary School.

Following an inadequate rating by Ofsted which put Monks Eleigh Primary School into special measures, funding for the community hall has been put into doubt.

A spokeswoman for Suffolk County Council said: “The future of the school is currently undecided. The county council’s learning and improvement service will continue to work with the school to address the issues raised by Ofsted.

“If the school were to close or gain academy status, there is a possibility that the funding for the hall would be withdrawn.”

A spokesman for Mesch was unavailable to comment.

The existing Coronation Hall on Church Hill, built in 1953, will have to be demolished in a few years’ time due to concrete degradation.

Suffolk County Council has already approved a grant of £185,000 towards the community hall, with the provision that Coronation Hall be sold and the proceeds put towards the project.

The council has also pledged an ‘in-principle’ interest-free loan for the value of the current village hall.

The management committee of Coronation Hall has submitted a planning application to have a section 106 clause removed so that a developer could buy the site with vacant possession.