

HADLOW DOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting on Monday 20th February at 7.45 pm in Village Hall

PRESENT:

Bob Lake, Janet Tourell, John Thompson, Nigel Harrison, Vicky Richards, Richard Boswell, Rachel Lewis, Paul James, Don Smith (Representative from Village Hall Committee), Graham Terry (Observer from Parish Council), Nigel Hellewell (Observer)

APOLOGIES: None received

MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting , 10.1.2012 were approved and signed

MATTERS ARISING: None

CHAIR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION: (As Vice Chair, BL reported)

BL reported that he and JT had been discussing key objectives for the year ahead.

GT was asked about the progress of the application for charitable status and he reported that all the paperwork had been submitted to HMRC but it was thought that it would take up to 6 months to come through. BL then asked RL if charitable status was enough to get grant aid, she thought not, as a charity number was needed when applying for grants and 'charitable status' didn't have that.

PJ questioned whether the committee was in a 'fit state' to become a charity. **All agreed that after the AGM, the committee should become a charity; BL undertook to investigate this.**

There was a brief discussion about combining the Village Hall Committee and the Playing-field Committee with the Community Centre Committee. JT said it had been suggested by Louise Beaton (AiRS) that it was probably **too early to be thinking of combining committees**, wait until the PC's difficulties with the Hall lease and the VH Committee's corrections to details on the Charity Commission web site were sorted.

Feasibility studies and planning re. the CC project; BL said quite a bit had been done already. RB said that cost will influence design of the building. PJ said this was a 'chicken-and-egg' situation re. cost and design and he was concerned about how much everything was going to be. BL said that unless risks were taken nothing would get done. It was thought that **approximately £20k would be required for a fully blown feasibility study that should cover the costs of conducting several surveys such as Habitat, Noise and Geo Technical Soil, final design and costing of the hall and the preparation of a planning application;** a fund-raising group was now priority. RB suggested looking at Buxted's planning application for a new hall to see what they were doing. PJ said we also needed clarification re. building on the site. J Thompson felt we should take the risk and go ahead with our plans. **BL and RB said they would investigate quotes for the various surveys.** PJ asked if the PC had been approached by the Committee re. applying to the Public Loans Fund. GT said that it hadn't.

Re. future funding, BL said the Committee needs a higher profile. DS asked RL what charities she could get interested in the project. RL said that, in the light of her recent experiences when raising money, she was confident that funds were 'out there' but the committee needed to be better organised and the project needed marketing. BL agreed that sub committees should be formed and

use made of volunteers. DS felt that village organisations should be compelled to raise money for the new project in the future. BL said that the Village should realise that unless something was done soon we could lose both current hall and the playing-field because of poor repair. VR was asked whether she thought that people on the volunteer list might be prepared to raise money for the current hall as well. **This will be investigated.** JT and PJ were both concerned about the perception created by spending on the old hall when trying to raise money for the CC. **However all agreed that the current hall should be supported and that interest and momentum in the new CC project should be maintained.**

PJ suggested that the 'core' of the committee should be tightened and **RL and BL agreed that sub committees should be formed with a permanent committee member at the head and recruits from the volunteer list. BL said it should be a 'loose' structure and as transparent as possible.** Nigel Hellewell suggested that individual members of the committee recruit others for the sub committees. **JT undertook to email the volunteer list about the AGM on Monday 27th February in the hope that some would come forward to serve on the committee.**

DS and PJ suggested that the Village Fayre should also be a 'showcase' for the committee with details of what we are trying to do. **This suggestion was agreed – JT will contact the Fayre Committee re. a stall.**

Parish Council progress with the current leases for the old hall and the playing –field. GT reported that they were having considerable trouble with the lease for the hall site because it was missing; the other lease was being sorted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: JThom reported that he'd received all the relevant information from GT and that the Committee had £640.75 in the Bank.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: JT reported that the old hall committee had voted to become a sub committee of the HDCC but, because of comments from Louise Beaton about waiting until the situation with the lease for the hall was sorted out and details on the Charity Commission web page rectified (see above), **she was not going re-write the schedule yet.** JT also confirmed that she'd received paperwork pertaining to the HDCC from GT.

OTHER BUSINESS:

New Community Centre Structure: BL asked RL to comment on details of a traditional management structure that she'd sent to himself and JT. **It was agreed that JT should email everyone on the Committee with this document.** (Attached to these minutes)

Web site: JT reported that she'd had an email from Peter Gornall about the lack of anything on the HDCC page again. After the AGM it is vital that something is done about this because it doesn't look as though we're doing anything. She offered to send information re. background of the committee and details of the survey to Eddie. **All agreed.** However it is hoped that a publicity person will be appointed to deal with these matters. VR said she could possibly help out with the web site.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 5.3.2012

MEETING CLOSED: 9.05 pm

