

## **CIO presentation for Hadlow Down village AGM's 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Following on from the 2013 AGM meeting when Bob and others provided a detailed presentation of the range of community centre building options under consideration as a replacement for the current village hall and to be sited at the playing field in accordance with the majority vote from the 2011 village survey, over the past few months, Nicola and I have working hard on enabling the Hadlow Down Community Centre (HDCC) to receive charitable status as a CIO.

### *Role of trustees*

Trustees have agreed the charity's purpose and elected a Board of Trustees. We shall revisit our aims, objectives and purpose at each AGM. This will focus the work that the Trustees do for the coming year and ensure that the original purpose is still the main objective in all operational and decision making situations. Trustees will be the only voting members of the HDCC at this time.

In order for our trustees to carry out the charity's purpose they will:

- Take note of the public benefit commitment when reviewing and planning the charity's activities and state in their annual reports how our charity operates for the public benefit.
- Be aware of the Charity Commission guidance (and its contents) on public benefit
- Take said guidance into account when making any decisions to which it is relevant; and
- Ensure that if the Trustees decide to depart from the CC guidance, that they have good reasons for doing so.
- Determine that all actions can be quantified and/or measured.
- Consider the opinions of the public that HDCC is serving (Hadlow Down Parish) and that the benefit is tangible and real.
- Make sure it is clear what the benefits are.
- Ensure the benefits must be related to the aims.
- Ensure that the beneficiaries must be appropriate to the aims.
- Ensure that any private benefits must be incidental.
- Ensure that the charity continues to further the charity's purpose for the public benefit in all of its actions.

### *So how will the trustees manage risks of harm to the public/beneficiaries?*

We shall ensure that all benefits are balanced against any detriment or harm. We shall complete risk assessments for each activity and be fully compliant with Health and Safety requirements.

We will provide public liability and other relevant insurance and complete regular health checks and provide fire safety and evacuation training and procedures. We will identify and minimise risk within our building, services and activities and ensure all hirers are aware of potential risks and have appropriate and relevant information supplied.

### *How will the trustees make decisions about who can benefit?*

The Equality Act permits charities to benefit people defined by reference to a 'protected characteristic', provided the restriction of benefits to people having that characteristic is justified in

relation to the purpose. Therefore we will ensure that the benefit is for residents within the parish of Hadlow Down but be cognisant that this benefit could also be available to others.

*How will the trustees ensure that personal benefits are no more than incidental?*

The HDCC Trustees will ensure that any personal benefits people receive (having regard both to its nature and to its amount) are no more than a necessary result or by-product of carrying out the purpose.

As a charity trustee, we have a choice about how to carry out our charity's purposes, provided that we exercise discretion in a way which: is in accordance with our charity's purpose (so not operating outside of that purpose); is for the public benefit; and has regard to the CC public benefit guidance, we will be acting appropriately and diligently.

*Keeping villagers informed*

At this moment in time our constitution states that the only voting members are the HDCC trustees. However it is our intention to consult the village on all major issues to ensure that we represent your wishes appropriately and correctly. In 2012 we canvassed the entire village to decide if we should keep the village hall in its current location or move it to the playing field. The majority of you stated that the new location on the playing field was best, and we followed your stated preference. We shall consult in a similar fashion – e.g. through a notice in the parish newsletter, tabling discussion items at village meetings or AGMs etc. – on other important Community Centre decisions.

*Fees for community centre usage*

HDCC will charge clubs, individuals, groups and organisations a modest fee for renting the Community Centre. We will also charge for the use of its facilities, such as kitchen, bar, lighting, heating, stage, food, and storage.

We shall have differing rates for example- a reduced rate for charities and constituted not for profit groups who provide a service to those in need or within a low income bracket. HDCC will periodically review these rates.

Please ask any questions .....