

HDCC Minutes – 10.9.2024, Playing field Pavilion

PRESENT: Bob Lake, Fiona Shafer, Rob Prall, Sarah Prall, Peter, Strevens, Mandy Chapman, Janet Tourell

1.APOLOGIES: John Thompson, Glenys Lake

2.MINUTES: 01.8.2024 -approved and signed

3.MATTERS ARISING: BL reviewed the previous minutes.

[5.] Balance of work undertaken had been requested by MJB Architecture and this is the final payment.

Re. the extant planning permission, RP said that he thought an official letter should be issued by Wealden DC and not just an email confirming this.

[6.] BL reported that he had met with Nigel Russell regarding legacy funding as planned.

Re. Thornham VH copy of lease, this was almost identical to one proposed by SP.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT: John Thompson had emailed the report to committee members – BL said if there are any anomalies please let him know.

5.FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH MIKE BARBER: RP and BL – it was felt that, although there were more questions about the building, it was pointless to pursue the issue of building regulations at this time because you need to submit a building regulations application before starting work on a project that requires it. Building regulation approval in the UK is valid for three years from the date the plans are deposited. If the work hasn't started within that time, the council may declare the plans invalid and require a new application. So why would we decide to pay the fees for this if only to have to repeat them again?

RP said that the QS had been contacted and has done most of the work at a significantly discounted rate and MJB Architecture is producing more detailed drawings. BL has shared his concerns MB

6. THE 5 YEAR-PLAN:

BL introduced this item by stating that the Parish Council wants the Village Hall and the Community Centre to produce a 5 year project plan.

Sally Blyfield, the chair of the village Hall committee had agreed with the HDCC to meet more often to discuss the way forward.

There will be an advisory meeting (24th September) and in Bob's absence, it is would be sensible for either or both MC and SP to attend.

BL and FS also felt that the HD Playing Field Committee should have some say in the plan.

MC then led a detailed discussion with the whole Committee as she mapped out the proposed HDCC 5 year Strategic Plan. The final draft will be sent to committee members.

7. LEASE AND FUTURE GOVERNANCE UP-DATE:

BL /SP: Dialogue had been opened with Michael Lunn, chair of the Parish Council - governance needs to be agreed.

The Committee agreed that the PC needs to look at the parties involved and discuss how it should be arranged.

RP felt that we need to work out who is going to represent – BL? FS? RP?

FS said that Richard Buckland was ready to advise and represent whenever he was needed – he would need to meet all the various parties involved.

ACTION: RP, FS, BL and SP to talk to the Parish Council as this would be the first communication and then they can follow-up afterwards.

Re the draft lease -SP needs to present it and then receive feedback.

RP – Heads of Terms need to be agreed hopefully by January and instruct by March/April 2025

SP felt that we couldn't try for grant-funding until this done, however BL said that, in certain circumstances, it might be possible.

FS wanted to know how the Playing field fits into these plans. SP said they need to get governance.

GOVERNANCE: SP incorporating commencement with HDCC and PF

It was felt that there should be 2 representatives from each organisation plus Parish councillors and major stakeholders e.g. Cricket, TN22 club?

MC queried when a new management committee would be formed?

RP – can a draft lease be proposed?

SP/BL Lease and Governance work together. We need advice.

ACTION: It was decided that SP, MC and BL should contact AiRS

A discussion about the role of the Charity Commission followed:

MC pointed out that a correct application would eventually need to be registered with the Charity Commission. SP agreed and said that the various organisations would also need to submit documents and nominate members.

The length of a new lease was discussed – minimum of 50 years, i.e. life of building.

8. FUND-RAISING:

The Committee agreed that there were three strands to fund-raising:

Community – ongoing – and increasing with time

Legacy/Benefactors

Grants

FS stated that there was going to be a meeting about a 'Village Diary' soon – now suggested as towards the end of October.

A grant feasibility in 2025 was discussed and the possibility of a professional fund-raiser. BL detailed research re grant-giving at the moment, pretty difficult!

SP agreed that we need people in the village who know about grant applications and we also now need to identify local benefactors. RP – we need to attract funding for feasibility work and secure a major donor in the Spring.

SP asked if there would be an income from the Hall?

We need a fund-raising 'pot' for the first year of operation.

Need an 'anchor' organisation such as a playgroup or nursery to be in situ.

Feasibility funding – could we find a number of donors to make provide £35,000?

9. MARKETING SUGGESTIONS:

It was decided that there should now be a monthly up-date in the Village Magazine. Who?

Another edition of the door-to-door news letter should perhaps be attempted again? BL suggested getting a sponsor for the new letter e.g. Oaklands or Buxted Construction?

FS – suggested 'Come Help Us' fliers/stickers; RP suggested car stickers?

Local authority grants also need investigating now – what is important is that there should be visible fund-raising next year and onwards.

Use a virtual reality tour of new hall – with Mike Barber. This could be an incentive and advertising for him!!!

BL – need cost of plan NOW!

FS – QR code on everything

10. A.O.B

BL questioned whether or not the Advisory Committee continues to be fit for purpose? Insufficient time to discuss this in any depth so we will defer until another meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday 21 October at Gill Hope Farm at 7.30 pm