

Minutes of the HDCC Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 18th April 2024 at Waghorns, Hadlow Down at 7.30 pm.

Present: Bob Lake (BL) Rob Prall (RP) Sarah Prall (SP) Fiona Shafer (FS) Mandy Chapman (MC) Janet Tourell (JT)

1.APOLOGIES: Peter Strevens, Glenys Lake, John Thompson

2.MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

These were signed as a true record of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 2024.

3.MATTERS ARISING:

Item 6: Draft Licence errors - FS said that there had been a non-Advisory Board meeting about this.

BL said that progress had been made with the Legal Document and the lease was confirmed until 2040

Re the Legal advice – FS said that contacting Richard Buckland would be delayed until the Parish Council had seen the document.

Item 7: Business Plan on web site – SP said that it hadn't been done but would be soon.

4.TREASURER'S REPORT (copy attached)

The report was discussed by the Committee, and it was agreed that a more detailed analysis of income would be welcomed in future, especially regarding local fund-raising.

ACTION: JT and GL to meet with JThom re. how to set this out.

5. FEEDBACK: EXTANT, PLANNING CONDITIONS AND LEGAL PERMIT:

RP and FS reported that there had not been much change. There was nothing contentious in the document. The Parish Council will correct the mistakes in the Permit. BL thanked RP and FS for their diligence.

BL reported good news – Extant Planning Permission is now coded WD/2024/0658/CD. The contact person is Matthew Taylor and the deadline 14.5.2024. Mike Barber is confident that it will complete ahead of time, and he will apply for building regulations. Fee. £275 plus VAT. RP asked what the timeline was – BL application in the next seven days. RP said that he will be there.

Coxdown Engineering (Construction) are ready to go – cost £5,000? SP pointed out there will be VAT relief and in future we need to differentiate between capital and running costs on a financial spreadsheet as this will help with grant applications. The Committee agreed.

BL said that future costs would be hefty. The QS would be £2,000 - can claim Gift Aid and VAT back

Peter Haining will advise re tracking funds.

6. LOCAL FUND-RAISING:

On behalf of Glenys Lake and the local fund-raising committee JT reported on events so far this year and what was likely to happen in the coming months. Some of the events such as the Tea-Party have been very successful others had been disappointing for various reasons – illness, lack of interest from the local community and the wrong date in the case of the Coffee Morning on Easter Saturday! It was felt that attendance at these events was not helped by the poor parking and the condition of the road around the Village Hall.

JT said that she was already booking stalls for the Christmas Market on 23rd November – SP and MC suggested that we might investigate holding it at Wilderness Wood.

ACTION: SP & MC to enquire with Emily at the Wood?

Various fund-raising events were suggested by the Committee for the future: Carols and Cake at the Village Hall. A Beer Fest?

JT said that the sub-committee would like a list of the people from the survey who had said they would volunteer. She said that the aim of these events had not just been to raise funds but also to restore the village community spirit.

It was suggested that the main HDCC Committee should meet with the sub-committee to say, 'thank you'.

7. FUND RAISING PLAN:

The Committee discussed the way forward when applying for large grants.

ACTION: MC, SP and BL to identify charities.

RP reported that a fundraiser would be available to meet at the end of April.

SP said that Elizabeth Thompson had expressed an interest in being involved. SP said major fund-raisers wouldn't be interested until the lease and plan were sorted out.

8. LEASE AND FUTURE GOVERNANCE:

SP suggested creating a management committee to administer the Playing Field and the Community Centre. Would need to talk to AiRS for advice.

RP – questioned if we should change names and the length of the lease?

There seem to be two options – merge or keep separate:

Merge would mean that we need to finalise and liquidate the accounts of the CIO

Separate: Need to create an ‘umbrella’ organisation. FS said that John Thompson (PF Treasurer) would like to keep finances separate.

MC – need to look for simpler route – consult AiRS?

BL suggested speaking to Geoff Gregory - no advice from AiRS

FS said there would have to be a way to mitigate Playing Field risks. RP felt that the PF needs to take a risk on a merger. He suggested consulting Richard Buckland about this.

SP suggested consulting the Charity Commission. She also said that it was good to have FS as chair of the PF to head off problems.

It was felt there should be an informal discussion with the Parish Council. Michael Lunn was happy to meet.

ACTION: As FS hadn’t heard from them re the Lease she will contact. Michael Lunn was very positive at the Parish Assembly meeting.

RP felt that we should stay focussed on getting extant planning permission.

9. AOB:

FS reported that at the Parish Assembly meeting on 16th April BL had been awarded the ‘Volunteer of the Year’ award. All agreed that it was good to see BL acknowledged within the village community.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

22.5.24 at Fiona Shafer’s in Wilderness Lane

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm