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**Minutes of the Advisory Committee “New Hall Steering Group”  
held on Thursday 2nd December 2021 at 7.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion**

**Members present:** Cllrs Jay Ashworth, Chris Sinden and Richard White  
(Chairman)  
Co-opted members: Nicky Bishop, Keith Finch, Nick  
Heasman and Clive O’Sullivan (Vice Chairman)

**Members absent:** Cllr Ron King

**In attendance:** Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the Council,

**1) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence have been received from Cllr Ron King

**2) Disclosures of interest**

No interests were declared.

**3) Additional agenda items**

Co-option On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Keith Finch, Cllr Jay Ashworth was co-opted to the committee.

**4) Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 22nd June 2021 were circulated with the agenda. On the motion of the Chairman the minutes were adopted without amendment and signed by him.

**5) Bidding for funds**

- a) Cllr Jay Ashworth reported on a Rother Voluntary Action showcase and AGM event hosted by Ashburnham Christian Trust at Ashburnham Place. The highlight was an introduction to Charity Mentors Sussex, a CIO based in Uckfield whose role is to provide mentoring to those in leadership roles in the voluntary sector. This includes those leading a fund raising project.
- b) Cllr Ashworth suggested that funders are increasingly seeking to support communities in practical ways such as facilities for sport and exercise or mental health or combatting loneliness. The forthcoming Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations are also opening up new opportunities to bid for community projects. The optics regarding our bids for funding will be enhanced if we can demonstrate the breadth and depth of our community involvement. We can demonstrate that we are a community hub for the district and not just the two parishes.  
**Action: Nicky Bishop will research demographic information about residents of the parishes.**  
**Action: Nicky Bishop with others will prepare a draft of a vision for a community ‘hub’.**  
**Action: Cllr Chris Sinden with contact organisers of recent events to capture information about attendance numbers and to try and recruit organisers to join a group willing to help with event organising for the Platinum celebrations.**
- c) Cllr Ashworth agreed to be the lead person who would make contact with Charity Mentors Sussex. Given that the period of mentoring is generally focused on an intensive four month period, it was agreed that before first contact we need more information including a ‘good enough’ idea of costs and where the money will come from.

**6) Design and construction**

a) 'Good enough' costs.

Costs established to date are:

- £440k Structure of the building (Wealden AM quote)
  - £50k Windows and doors (quoted in 2021)
  - £65k Heating (including ASHP, underfloor, ventilation, and heat recovery)
  - £?k Plumbing including kitchen and toilets
  - £30k? Electrics **Action: Keith Finch**
  - £? Car park surfacing
  - £? Internal finishes (including acoustic boarding, plaster and paint)
  - £20k? Kitchen fit-out **Action: Nick Heasman**
  - £15k? Stage
  - £50k? Contingency
- £750k Rough total

**7) Sources of funding**

- a) £100k ATT pledge
- b) £250k Loan from PWLB
- c) £50k Village fund raising
- d) £350k Grants

**8) Village Fund raising**

- a) Queen's Platinum Jubilee - events will be organised with a view to fund raising for the new hall. The parish council are budgeting £2,000 for the expenses related to staging events and are only budgeting to recover half of that from income from events. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that the Platinum Jubilee events will contribute anything to new hall fund raising.
- b) Coffee Morning - a coffee morning will be held on Saturday 26th February 2022 as a launch pad for the Jubilee Celebrations. The scale model will be on show together with an exhibition display showing aspects of the new hall project with a view to re-energising people to support the project. M.I. are going to be asked to be the organisers of the coffee morning.

**9) Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 13th January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Ashburnham sports pavilion

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Signed (Chair)

Date .....