
**Minutes of the Advisory Committee “New Hall Steering Group”
held on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the sports pavilion.**

- Members present:** Cllrs Jay Ashworth, Chris Sinden
Co-opted members: Keith Finch and Clive O’Sullivan (Vice
Chairman).
- Members absent:** Cllrs Ron King, Richard White (Chairman), Nicky Bishop
- In attendance:** Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the Council

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman chaired the meeting.

1) Apologies for absence

None

2) Disclosures of interest

No interests were declared.

3) Additional agenda items

None

4) Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 16th November 2022 were circulated with the agenda. On the motion of the Chairman of the meeting the minutes were adopted without amendment and signed by him.

5) Design and construction

- a) Pump House Designs have completed their work on the design specification and obtained quotations from two suppliers.
- b) For heating and ventilating Artemis FM have quoted £16,330 plus vat.
- c) For the electrical installation C B Electrical Construction have quoted £38,000 plus vat.
- d) Given that Wealden AM have quote £406,000 for a watertight shell plus the windows quote of £55,000, the total of the quotations is £515,000.
- e) Allowing for £85,000 to cover the kitchen plus stage and lighting, the total project cost of £600,000 appears to be of the right order.
- f) The Clerk was requested to research the question of recovery of VAT as the normal Section 33 annual claim by the parish council has a de minimus value of £7,500.

6) Village fund raising (events)

- a) A quiz night at the village hall has yet to be arranged and members thought that a Friday or Saturday either in late May (27th?) or soon after the coronation were the only possibilities before the summer.
- b) In July the Vintage Motor Cycle Club concours provides a fund raising opportunity as village volunteers provide their catering which, this year, is planned to include breakfast as well as lunch. The Country Fair is the main fund raiser at the end of July but a new supremo for the pavilion catering will need to be found as Keith Honhold-Beresford is otherwise engaged.
- c) Cllr Ashworth noted that it is some time since there was a coffee morning at the pavilion and that one in the spring coupled with a plant sale could be explored.

7) Bidding for funds

- a) Funders are likely to want to see some business plan for the viability of the new hall. Cllr Sinden noted that insurance costs might be heavy. The Clerk was instructed to inspect the insurance costs of the village hall, which is insured for the rebuilding cost, so that some projection of insurance costs for the new hall could be made. The Clerk was also instructed to review and update the business plan he had prepared several years ago.
- b) Cllr Ashworth reported that she is contacting Rother Voluntary Action to obtain assistance with fund raising. She understands that the incoming new Chair of RVA was lately heading the local region of the National Lottery Fund.
- c) Cllr Ashworth suggested that the parish council should renew its lapsed subscription to the Community Buildings Advisory Service (CBAS) of Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS). The Clerk will add it to the agenda of the next parish council meeting.
- d) Cllr Ashworth reported that there is a networking event for Sussex Mentors on 23rd May and members thought that it would be useful if the Chairman, Cllr White, and she were to attend.

8) Communications and media

- a) Cllr Ashworth reported that she was in the process of a major update of the village website acknowledging the need for it to demonstrate to potential funders that there was active support for the project. The focus of the update would be reporting, with as many pictures as possible, on past events.
- b) Annual Village Meeting
 - i) Cllr Ashworth proposed to use some of the free standing exhibition panels, recently purchased for the art exhibition, to display photographs of past events. Cllr Sinden noted that this could be a nudge to people to become involved in future events and that there is a need to get people re-energised again.
 - ii) Cllr Sinden cautioned that the meeting could be difficult as there was a call for a vote on the future of the project at the last meeting in 2022. His view was that only 25% of residents might support the project if a vote were taken now. Cllr Ashworth commented that the right time for a referendum was prior to any application for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

9) Date of Next Meeting

Agreed as Thursday 11th May at 7.30pm in the Ashburnham sports pavilion.

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Signed (Chair)

Date