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**Minutes of the Advisory Committee “New Hall Steering Group”  
held on Wednesday 11th May 2023 at 7.30 pm in the sports pavilion.**

**Members present:** Cllrs Jay Ashworth and Richard White  
Co-opted members: Clive O’Sullivan (Deputy Chairman).

**Members absent:** Cllr Ron King, Cllr Chris Sinden, Nicky Bishop, Keith Finch

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

**1) Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Ron King and Chris Sinden.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were circulated with the agenda. On the motion of the Chairman the minutes were adopted without amendment and signed by him.

**5) Design and construction**

a)

i) The committee reviewed the comments made at the Annual Parish Meetings. Following the meetings Laurence Keeley has written to the committee with a proposal for funding the new village hall from a significant housing development. The Clerk was instructed to reply to Mr Keeley that they consider his ideas somewhat fanciful and would neither gain approval from planners nor support from villagers. However, the Committee wanted thanks expressed to Mr Keeley and in particular for providing stool ball at the Coronation celebrations.

ii) It was noted that the only hostility towards the new hall seemed to focus on the expenditure of parish funds. However, as was stated at the meeting, any expenditure will be funded from the Village Hall Appeal Fund. It was also evident that those who might be hostile are also unwilling, as is most of the village, to do any fund raising for improvements to the existing village hall.

iii) Development of internal fit out costs continue with contacts being made with appropriate tradesmen.

b) At the previous meeting the Clerk was requested to obtain the ruling about VAT on construction a new village hall. He reported that Acre Information Sheet No.18 states, “*The construction of new charitable village halls and community centres is zero-rated under Note (6) of Group 5, Schedule 8 of the 1994 VAT Act. (Acre Info Sheet 18)*”

**6) Village fund raising (events)**

a) The planned quiz night at the village hall has been postponed until October.

b) Nicky Bishop plans to hold a garage sale in aid of the new hall on 10th June 2023.

c) In July the Vintage Motor Cycle Club concours and the Country Fair are the major fund raising events. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council does have a SumUp card payments

machine and that he can provide a mobile phone linked to it and to the Appeal Fund bank account.

- d) Funds in the Village Hall Appeal Fund stand at £10,589.

**7) Bidding for funds**

- a) Cllr Ashworth continues to have access to the mentoring provided by Sussex Mentors.
- b) Cllr Ashworth is in contact with Rother Voluntary Action to obtain assistance with fund raising.
- c) The parish council is expected to agreed to renew its lapsed subscription to the Community Buildings Advisory Service (CBAS) of Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) at an annual subscription of £144.
- d) Members discussed seeking sponsors such as local land owners and timing any approaches to synchronise with approaching the village for approval to raise a loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

**8) Communications and media**

- a) Cllr Ashworth continues to refresh pages on the village website.

**9) Date of Next Meeting**

Agreed as Thursday 3rs August 2023 7.30pm in the Ashburnham sports pavilion.

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Signed (Chair)

Date .....