
Minutes of the Advisory Committee “New Hall Steering Group”

held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

- Members present:** Cllrs Jay Ashworth and Richard White (Chairman)
Co-opted members: Keith Finch and Clive O’Sullivan (Vice Chairman)
- Members absent:** Cllr Paul Spicer
- In attendance:** Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the Council,

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence have been received from Cllr Paul Spicer.

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 11th May 2023 were circulated with the agenda. On the motion of the Chairman the minutes were adopted without amendment and signed by him.

5) Drainage & Construction

- a) Internal fit out R & M Construction have been asked for a guide price but have not responded. The Chairman will chase them, but members thought it would be sensible to ask Mitchell Construction to also price the work.
- b) Onsite storage The shipping container’s use is severely restricted by the second hand stainless steel kitchen units stored there. The problem would be alleviated by better organisation of materials stored. The Chairman will convene a small working party and as part of the reorganisation will eject redundant and unused materials and equipment to make greater usable space. Any ejected materials will have some simple coverage until the owners, likely to be the cricket club, decide what to do with it.

6) Village Fund Raising

- a) Quiz night Given the number of events at the village hall between now and Christmas it was decided to postpone the planned quiz night until January and 27th January 2024 was pencilled in as a target date.
- b) 2023 fund raising to date
Country Fair and VMCC show - £5,900
Nicky Bishop garage sale - £325

7) Bidding for funds

- a) AiRS subscription service
- i) Is providing useful contextual information. It is apparent that one early hurdle needing to be crossed is the need to provide evidence that a new village hall is something local people want.
- ii) Committee members take the view that professional help will be needed to find a way to deal with the above challenge. They think that it is an appropriate use of the funds raised to date to employ such help plus help in finding a route to potential funders.

iii) A repeat of the virtual conference call with Louise Beaton (2015?) would be useful and the Chairman will explore options.

b) Business Plan

i) AiRS provides a useful template for constructing a business plan and members intend to develop one soon.

ii) The Clerk advised that two big, fixed costs which need researching are insurance and Non Domestic Rates. Members are going to contact recently built new hall organisers to find out what insured values are being used for rebuilding costs. On NDR the Clerk will circulate research he carried out a few years ago on rateable values of similar sized facilities. The issue is that the current rateable value falls below the small value threshold meaning there is 100% relief of NDR liability. This will no longer be true after a new hall is built.

c) Other funding sources Rother District Council make grants of up to £30k and the National Lottery Community Fund is still open to bids.

8) Communications and media

The village web site pages have all been updated by Cllr Ashworth and a section on FAQ's added.

9) Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 25th October 2023 7.30pm in the Ashburnham sports pavilion.

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Signed (Chair)

Date