

## **New Village Hall Project Group Meeting**

**Thursday 10 November 2022**

*Venue: All Saints Church by kind permission of the PCC*

### **Minutes**

**Present:** *Village Hall Committee:* George Brett-Reynolds (Chair), Margaret Brett Reynolds, David Skinner, Julie Piggott. *Hall Project Advisory Board:* Sophie Trend (co-ordinator), Graham Polson, Suki Polson, John Harrison, Lindy Green, Tim Green, Susie Freeman, Graham Able, Mary Able, Paul Brown, Carol Brown, Sarah Hiner

**Apologies:** *Village Hall Committee:* Barbara Clark *Advisory Board:* Sue Harrison, Julie Dyson, Suki Polson, Susan Neil, Tony Green, Tom Mitcheson, Tina Guillory

**Minutes & matters arising:** The minutes of the last meeting (dated 6.10.22), previously circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chair. Sophie T. reported that the Goldcrest Trustees were happy with progress to date, understanding of the delays caused by Historic England and content for the contract with Grocott & Murfit to proceed as planned. Susie F. explained her intent to meet the Sheringham Shoal funding deadline by end March, for a decision in May '23.

**Building Subcommittee update:** Graham P. received the updated costings from Mark Masters on Friday 7 October. This has increased to £693,000 - and, since then has risen to £719,000. However, Graham A. announced the very welcome news that an anonymous trust has agreed to underwrite the funds shortfall, on the understanding that grant applications and fundraising continue (for eg. Sophie T. has applied to the Lottery Fund in the hope of covering most of this shortfall, outcome tbc, and further village fundraising events / applications are planned). In effect this agreement gives the Village Hall Charity Trustees the legality to proceed with the build, safe in the knowledge that funds are in place.

Rick Jones QS, Graham A. and Graham P. have scrutinised the latest costings and contract from Grocott & Murfit, and, bar a couple of minor changes, confirmed agreement. Graham A. confirmed that public liability insurance is in place and reminded the meeting that no further changes are possible after the contract is signed. The trenches have been filled and the scheduled build time is 32 weeks, commencing Monday 14th November [\* see below].

The transfer of land from the Holkham Estate is still underway, with delays caused by Hayes & Storr solicitors on leave. As ever, the meeting thanked Graham A. and Graham P. for their excellent work on behalf of the Project Group, and particular thanks to Rick Jones.

**Kitchen plan:** Further to the submission of a grant application to the Co-op Community Fund for max £5,000 towards food / catering related items, Graham P. had circulated a provisional plan to group members. After some debate, it was agreed to approach three commercial suppliers for layout ideas and quotes in time to hit the Co-op deadline of end November.

**Fundraising update:** Graham A. reported continued progress with the "Buy-a-Brick" campaign with a total of £553,896 now pledged / raised - and more expected in the form of gift aid, Marham, village fundraising etc. The Black Shuck evening brought in welcome funds, thanks to the organisers, Suki and Graham P. and to Pat Weston and Ali King. Sophie T. circulated a further buy-a-brick reminder round the village with good results. Paul B. suggested ways of maximising interest. The Goldcrest Trustees have kindly agreed to transfer a significant proportion of its pledge to cover forward purchase of materials etc asap.

**AOB:** Lindy G. informed the meeting about chairs & agreed to bring one to a future meeting for consideration. It was noted how far the Project had come over 12 months, with plans now becoming an exciting reality. A meeting of the VH Trustees is planned for November 24th.

**Date for next meeting:** Friday 2nd December at 11am. All Saints Church.

**After a minute's silence in memory of Jill Seaman, the meeting closed at 7.50pm**

\* **NB.** Since the meeting the build start has been revised to 5th January 2023.