

New Village Hall Project Meeting

**Wednesday 2nd November 2021
6pm**

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, Sarah Hiner, John Harrison, Sue Harrison, Susie Freeman, Graham Able, Mary Able, Tim Green, Lindy Green.

Apologies: Barbara Clark (*Village Hall Committee*) Julie Dyson, Susan Polson, Susan Neil, Tina Guillory, Paul & Carol Brown, Tom Mitcheson, Tony Green (*Advisory Board*).

Minutes: This being an emergency meeting called to update Committee and Advisory Board members on significant recent developments, the minutes of the last meeting (27 Feb 2020 pre-pandemic) were not read on this occasion, although it was noted that they are available to read on www.wightonvillagehall.co.uk. Instead the meeting focussed on matters in hand.

Chair's update: After a warm welcome back (after many months of pandemic) from George BR (Chair), he updated the meeting on the extraordinarily generous offer of £500,000 by the Trustees of the Goldcrest Charitable Trust as outlined in their letter to the Village Hall Trustees received on 25 October 2021. This was an increase on its original, and already very generous, offer of £100,000, towards the new village hall project made in August 2019. The Chair also explained the offer conditions and timetable expectations as set out in the letter. In summary, this comprises planning submitted by end of January 2022; demolition of current hall in May 2022; new building watertight by November 2022 and grand opening in May 2023. Everyone agreed that this news was an unexpected and fantastic boost to the project, especially in the light of the unsuccessful application submitted to the NCC's Community Fund in September.

Buildings subcommittee update: Graham P. and Graham A. gave the meeting a short presentation reminding the meeting of progress to date. Also on their additional work for the recent NCC Community Fund application including ballpark quotes gathered on plans from three building companies, Morrissey, Grocott & Murfit, and Carters. Plus an update on conversations with NNDC planners (who have shown support for the project) and ideas on how the expectations of the Goldcrest Charitable Trust might be met, particularly in view of the tight timetable. Ways to reduce costs without compromising standards (eg. reducing the size of the storage area), and parking issues were also discussed. It was agreed that Morrissey and G&M should be asked to flesh out plans and quotes for a final decision by the Committee in late November (Graham A. to action). It was also agreed to contact Holkham Property Manager, James Bracey, about the tarmac area (Sophie T. to action). Graham A. confirmed the good news that his colleague, Rick Jones, was prepared to act as QS at no cost to the project. The meeting asked Graham A. to pass on their grateful thanks to Rick.

Further funding: There was general discussion about the importance of organising local fundraising including events and the buy-a-brick scheme, not only as money-raisers but also ensure that villagers have a stake and feel involved in the project. Sophie T., Susie F. and Sarah H. agreed to continue investigating potential local and national grant-giving bodies.

AOB: Grant announcement on social media to be approved by Goldcrest Trustees before posting (Sophie T. to action); thank you letter and delivery of a bouquet to Trustees in recognition of their huge generosity (Barbara C. / Sophie T. to action); Charity Commission to be alerted about rebuilding plans (Graham P. to action).

Date for next meeting: Subject to feedback from builders, next meeting arranged for Tuesday 23rd November at 6pm in the hall. Possible village-wide meeting to follow (tbc)

The meeting ended at 7.35pm