

New Village Hall Project Meeting

Tuesday 23rd 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, Susie Freeman, Graham Able, Mary Able, Tim Green, Lindy Green, Paul Brown, Carol Brown, Tony Green

Apologies: Barbara Clark (*Village Hall Committee*) Julie Dyson, Susan Polson, Susan Neil, Sue Harrison, Tina Guillory, Tom Mitcheson (*Advisory Board*).

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting (dated 2.11.21) were agreed and signed by the Chair George BR. As matters arising, the Chair reminded all present that the grant has been pledged by the Goldcrest Charitable Trust (ie. NOT by Julie & Neil Dyson, who are Trustees).

Building Subcommittee update: Graham P. summarised progress to date, including meetings with two local building firms - Morrissey (Briston) and Grocott & Murfit (Fakenham). [NB. Carters now removed from shortlist]. As requested, Morrissey and G&M delivered formal plans and quotes by 20.11.21 for final consideration by the Village Hall Project Group. Price-wise, quotes were similar, however Morrissey comes in marginally cheaper than G&M (c. £15,000 difference) while G&M is stronger on technological sophistication, communication, cost control and deliverability. Overall, despite an impressive pitch by Morrissey, Graham P. and Graham A., in agreement with QS Rick Jones, recommended G&M to the Project Group.

The vote was put to the meeting. George BR proposed, Tim G. seconded: "Do we commission Grocott & Murfit to undertake the new village hall build?" In a show of hands, this proposal was voted through unanimously, with no abstentions. Graham P. agreed to notify the builders of this decision, copying the offer letter to Sophie T. for project files. The meeting thanked the Building Subcommittee, particularly Graham P., for their work in liaising with the builders.

The Project Group was also notified of a meeting with James Bracey, Holkham Property Manager, regarding the plans and adjacent tarmac area, with the hope of land donation. In follow-up, Holkham has confirmed it is "fully supportive", requesting for final sight of the proposals before planning is submitted and suggesting a lease agreement. Further to a subsequent informal conversation between Graham A. and Tom Leicester, the Project Group agreed to a follow-up letter to Holkham reiterating the importance of this land to the village and anxiety that the planning process should not be held up by any difficulties surrounding this issue.

Funding update: Susie F. fed back findings from a recent webinar, noting the UK's funding landscape has changed significantly over the last two years. Apart from grant applications and local fundraising events it was agreed that the buy-a-brick scheme should go ahead at £10 per brick (with gift aid), plus an auction of village hall items and possible sale of the hall itself - or "free to collect" to save on demolition costs. Also Amazon Smile (Susie F. to action). It was agreed to produce a leaflet for circulation around the village to update residents on progress and launch the fundraising with BACS details (Tony G. to design and organise printing with content contribution from the Project Group). This would also include an invitation to an "Open Morning" to inspect plans, ideally with a representative from G&M in attendance.*

AOB: Margaret BR and Julie P. suggested a "farewell to the hut" party before demolition. The Group agreed wholeheartedly with this idea. Graham P. to approach NNDC building inspector for Building Certificate as soon as possible in planning process).

Date for next meeting: Next meeting arranged for Tuesday 25th January at 6pm in the hall.

The meeting ended at 7.35pm

*** NB. The Open Morning has now been confirmed for Saturday 29th January from 10am in the village hall.**