

New Village Hall Project Meeting

**Thursday 27th February 2020
6pm**

Minutes

Present: *Village Hall Committee:* George Brett-Reynolds (Chair), Margaret Brett-Reynolds, David Skinner.

Hall Project Advisory Board: Sophie Trend, Graham Polson, Sarah Hiner, Tony Green, Susan Neil, Graham Able, John Harrison, Susie Freeman.

Apologies: Barbara Clark (*Village Hall Committee*) Julie Dyson, Graham Able, Susan Polson, Sue Harrison, Tina Guillory, Paul & Carol Brown, Tom Mitcheson (*Advisory Board*).

Minutes: After a welcome by the Chair, the minutes of the last meeting (27.1.20) were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: Graham A. confirmed he has been in email contact with architect Elena Thatcher of The Other Studio to update her on the current situation and decision-making process. Sophie T. has the email exchange on file. Following the useful group visits to Creake and Briston village halls on 24.2.20, there was general discussion regarding acoustics, exterior access, welcoming foyer, storage, access fob, automatic lighting, floor heating, ceiling heights etc. Creake's advice was to spend as much as could be afforded to get the building right.

Copyright update: Graham A. reassured the Committee that copyright issues regarding The Other Studio were sufficiently clarified. It was agreed that all work created by the Village Hall Project group collective would belong solely and entirely to the Village Hall Committee, not to private individuals.

Plans update: Graham P. presented the drawings supplied by Jim Morrissey and plans supplied by Daniel Grocott including a choice of ceiling heights. The meeting unanimously agreed on the "yellow" open ceiling option with trusses. There was general discussion regarding potential design (some members questioned the roof overhang, others liked it) and materials (two-tone "heritage" brick, traditional pantiles / plasticised steel roof, insulated boarding, painted breeze blocks / plastered walls, anodised aluminium window frames etc). It was agreed that early decision-making should go into the kitchen design and layout.

Action points:

- Ask for quotes from Morissey & Grocott - giving them 5 weeks, meeting on site individually.
- Sophie T. To organise a meeting with James Bracey, property manager at Holkham, regarding the tarmac area
- Graham P. To email the spec to Project committee members

Any other business: Everyone present was given a moment to voice any personal views and opinions on the project (see attached).

Date for next meeting: Monday 27th April at 5pm.

NB. IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC THIS MEETING WILL BE POSTPONED

The meeting ended at 8pm

AOB: Brief summary of comments

Susie F.

Stressed the importance of future-proofing the building and to make it attractive to potential hirers. Happy with the interior, not so happy with the exterior.

Tony G.

Felt tonight's meeting had been "spot on". He likes the idea of reflected vernacular at the best value, moving forward

Sarah H.

Importance of the kitchen hatch being generous - a wide space in an L-shape to avoid queue build-up and the importance of retaining the history in some way (eg. coat hooks).

Susan N.

We currently have a friendly and cosy "hut". Binham is too grand, we need to retain the friendly quality and avoid austerity. Also raised the tree-planting scheme on the Parish Council noticeboard. Could we incorporate this into the landscape?

Sophie T.

Reminder that the idea was always that the Village Hall Committee makes the final decisions, and the Advisory Board is there to give opinions and advise as a team. Also stressed importance of heritage materials, ie. bricks etc.

Margaret B-R

Happy with progress. Ultimately we want a nice little village hall "what more do we want?"

George B-R

Anxious about money and wants to be realistic. We mustn't run the village into debt and need to do our own fundraising (perhaps set up a fundraising thermometer by the war memorial to indicate progress?). As Chair, he thanked the team for working together to get things right and pointed out the lower costs for pre-planning charges if the village hall does this as a charity.

David S

All sounds good. Once we have estimates, the way forward will be clearer. We are a small village and don't want to overstretch ourselves. Many villages are struggling because their halls are too expensive.

Graham P

Pleased with the way its going and there's potential to take a bit off the storeroom. Overall concern is that it has to be saleable and further down the line there needs to be a team to "sell" the new hall and get people into it. A substandard hall will put us on a sticky wicket from the off, whereas a a good hall has a better chance of success. Solar panels to minimise costs and good standards of materials. He likes the professionalism of Grocott but of course will go with what the Committee decides.

Graham A.

We have achieved a lot in a short time. Cost is of course a major factor and must look at feasibility. Remain to be convinced about Grocott's prices and Morissey could come up with better sketches, but the floor plan definitely ticks the boxes. We should go for pre-planning as soon as possible.

NB. John Harrison left before AOB