

Hooe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Village Hall Project Committee Meeting of 8th May 2024

Attendees: Cllr A. Loyd (AL), Cllr G. Kirk (GK), Cllr D. Carey (DC), Cllr J. Manlow (JM) & Cllr B. Leonard (BL)

In attendance: J. Warrener – Clerk (Proper Officer/RFO)

21 members of the public present. Meeting opened at 7.02 pm

The chairman announced that no public questions would be taken as the purpose of this committee meeting is to count the votes received for the Village Hall Community Consultation.

Business Transacted

1. **To receive apologies and reasons for absence** in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 S85 (1)

Apologies received from Cllr. Crawhurst. No apologies received from Cllr. Clifton.

2. **Disclosure of Interests**

Interests in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Council code of conduct.

To receive councillors' declarations of interest regarding matters on the agenda and consider any written requests or dispensation as a result. Any changes to register of interests should be notified to the clerk.

None declared.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings** to be agreed and signed as a true record.

To approve and sign the minutes of the Village Hall Project Committee meeting held on the 11th March 2024 as a true record.

Motion carried.

Resolved the minutes of the Village Hall Project Committee of the 11th March 2024 are signed as a true record.

Matters For Consideration and Resolution

4. **To open the envelopes received for the Village Hall Community Consultation, to record the number of votes received and agree any action required.**

BL indicated the committee meeting may exceed the maximum two-hour time limit allowed as set out in Standing Order 3X and recommended Standing Order 3X be suspended in accordance with Standing Order 26A to allow the meeting to exceed two hours.

Motion carried.

Resolved that Standing Order 3X be suspended in accordance with Standing Order 26A.

BL discussed the proposed vote counting procedure for the village hall community consultation and provided a demonstration to councillors of how the process set out in the procedure would work.

Motion carried.

Resolved to accept the vote counting procedure proposed by BL.

BL reported to the committee that 127 envelopes had been received and 8 envelopes had been received after the deadline of the 30th April 2024 and the committee must decide if they are to accept the 8 envelopes as part of the count.

Motion carried.

Resolved to accept the 8 envelopes received after the deadline of the 30th April 2024 to be included as part of the vote count.

BL explained one envelope had been returned in a plain envelope and not in the prepaid business envelope provided. BL advised that the elector had contacted the clerk to advise the Parish Council of the situation. The envelope was retrieved from the village hall post box and not opened. BL explained that the committee must decide if the unopened plain envelope is to be accepted as part of the vote count.

Motion carried.

Resolved to accept the plain white envelope and be included as part of the vote count.

The vote count commenced at 7.16pm and finished at 8.55pm.

BL reported to the committee that a total of 206 envelopes were mailed out to the properties in the 29 post codes that covers Hooe Parish, and 127 envelopes were returned giving a 62% return rate. BL advised there are 370 registered voters on the electoral role so the turn out figure will be based on this total.

BL advised that 266 individual votes were received, and this represents a 72% turnout rate. BL added that 3 votes were rejected as no names were supplied on the forms and this represents 1.1% of the electorate. BL reported that there were two options on the response vote form, keep and renovate or close and sell. BL announced 205 votes were received to keep and renovate and 61 votes to close or sell. BL explained that the first option represented 77% of the votes and the second option 23% of the votes.

BL said that this was a good turnout, and this has proved to the Parish Council it was necessary to ask the community for their preference. BL added that it would not be appropriate for the Parish Council or councillors to make any comment until the public have had an opportunity to voice their views at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 29th May 2024 at 7.15pm and the Village Hall Project Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 7pm.

BL explained that the Parish Council had received several emails during the consultation and the details including the responses can be found on the Parish Council’s website under village hall project under 5.14 along with the results declaration and a copy of the announcement of the vote.

The Village Hall Project Committee meeting finished at 9pm

In accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018 all attendees of the meeting are hereby notified that the meeting will be recorded as an aide memoire for the clerk when compiling the minutes. The recordings are held securely and are deleted after the resolution that the minutes are a true and correct record. Members of the public should be aware that being present at a meeting of the Council or one of its committees or sub-committees will be deemed as the person having given consent to being recorded (photograph, film or audio recording) at the meeting, by any person present. A person or persons recording the parish meeting are reminded that the “Public Session” period may not be part of the formal meeting and that they should take legal advice for themselves as to their rights to make any recording during that period.

Signed:

Chairman: Cllr. Leonard