

Hooe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Village Hall Project Committee Meeting held on 19th June 2024

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

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

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

No questions asked by the public.

Business Transacted

- To request for nominations and select a chairman for the Village Hall Project Committee**
AL nominated BL for chairman. GK seconded. Four votes in favour and two abstained.
Resolved that BL be chairman.
- To request for nominations and select a vice chairman for the Village Hall Project Committee**
JM nominated JM for vice chairman. AL seconded. All agreed.
Motion carried.
Resolved that JM be vice chairman.
- To receive apologies and reasons for absence** in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 S85 (1).
No apologies.
- 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.
- To approve and sign the minutes of the Village Committee meeting held on 8th May 2024 as a true record.**
Motion carried.
Resolved that the minutes of 8th May 2024 are signed as a true record.

Matters For Consideration and Resolution

- To discuss and agree the Terms of Reference for the Village Hall Project Committee**
Motion carried.
Resolved to agree the Terms of Reference for the Village Hall Project Committee as written.
- To consider the future of the village hall following the results of the community consultation and agree any actions required.**
BL summarised the events this year: In February 2024 the new build option on the recreation grounds was rejected. In March 2024 it was agreed to hold a community consultation to consult with the residents based on two options keep and renovate or sell the village hall. In April 2024 the community consultation was held between the 8th to 30th April 2024 and on the 8th May 2024 where the votes were counted, and the results declared.

BL suggested to councillors that once debated and before any motions are put forward that the public are allowed to comment prior to any decision being made. All councillors agreed.

BL went through the documents and financial implications and councillors debated the contents.

Meeting closed at 8.32pm to receive public questions.

Q1 If the village hall is sold what happens to the money?

A1 The clerk explained that it is classed as a capital receipt, the money can only be spent on new projects and cannot be used on day to day spend although the bank interest generated can be used against the budget. BL stated that if sold with development rights to build one house it could be between £300,00 - £600,000 and the interest alone on £300,000 is £9,000 per year, a quarter of the precept.

Comment: The resident said that they agreed with DC to set up a separate committee so the residents can have a say on what the hall is used for, people will volunteer and hopefully they will attend from the different organisations in the village.

Comment: The resident said that another survey does not need to be done. A new surveyor will only give you new prices and there is no need to consider it and you need to prioritise the work to deal with it bit by bit.

Q3 Who owns the village hall?

A3 The clerk explained Hooe Parish Council owns the village hall and it is managed on behalf of the residents of Hooe. . The clerk pointed out the parish council has a statutory duty to manage any building belonging to the parish council and is not allowed to let any building to get into disrepair or mismanage a building.

Q4 Why is the electricity so expensive that you can't leave the heating on?

A4 BL said we can't afford it as we are charged at a business rates and each heater cost £1.50 per hour plus a standing charge of £1.50 per day.

Q5 Have you made a decision to hold a committee for this hall?

A5 BL replied no.

Meeting re-opened at 8.43pm.

DC proposed to reject the close and sell option and accept the keep and renovate option for the village hall.

Four in favour and one against.

Resolved to keep and renovate option is accepted for the village hall.

BL proposed that a temporary repair is made to the roof where the water is egressing into the cupboard.

Motion carried.

Resolved for the clerk to obtain quotations to repair the leak to the roof of the village hall.

The Committee did not agree to commission a new surveyors report for the building work to the village hall.

BL recommended a pre-planning application is submitted to East Sussex County Council Highways department to consider a car park next to the village hall at a cost of £235.00 + VAT.

Motion agreed.

Resolved that a pre-planning application be submitted to ESCC highways department at a cost of £235.00 + VAT to consider the land adjacent to the village hall be turned into a car park.

The Village Hall Project Committee meeting finished at 9.12 pm.

Signed: Chairman: Cllr. W. Leonard

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.