

HENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes (Unapproved) of a Council Meeting regarding the Village Hall

Date: Thursday 2 December 2021

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: OSCA, Henham

Present: Cllrs N. Baker, S. Lee, M. Fisher, Z. Rutterford, G. LeCount, P. Franklin, J. King, Clerk M. Dacey

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs M. Francis

2. Village Hall

The purpose of the meeting was for Councillors to decide how to undertake and deal with the responsibility for the village hall as the Parish Council is the custodian trustee of the village hall on behalf of residents. Previously a meeting with the Chair and secretary of Village Hall Committee was held on 8th November 2021 to discuss their business plan.

The Chair outlined the following options for Councillors to consider:

- a) Do nothing
- b) Refurbish to a state whereby the village hall is acceptable for hiring and is fully Health and Safety compliant.
- c) Full refurbishment to the previously estimated cost of £250,000, although it is estimated such costs will have increased by 25%.

Following a discussion, the following was agreed:

1. The Parish Council would provide a grant of £5,000 towards maintenance of the village hall to be reviewed on an annual basis, subject to Cllr Fisher and the Clerk providing terms of reference to confirm what the £5,000 is intended to be used for. Proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Franklin, approved by all present except for Cllr Lee who voted against. The terms of reference are as follows:

Henham Parish Council (HPC) have carefully considered the difficult operating environment for the Village Hall and have voted to grant the Village Hall (VH) £5000 to be reviewed annually.

This grant is a contribution towards the upkeep and ongoing maintenance of the VH. It is expected that the VH Committee will continue to be as pro active as possible to raise additional revenue through letting of the VH to as many community led classes, events, fund raisers as possible as well as seeking external grants where available.

The long term goal of the VH should be to achieve self-sustainability and run in a commercially but (non profit making capacity) with sufficient reserves to cover all future depreciation, dilapidation and refurbishment costs going forward with out the need for any additional funding from the HPC.

Payment will made in two instalments of £2500 in April 2022 and September 2022 and will be reviewed annually in the December 2022 meeting of HPC.

2. Given the unsafe state of the building the Parish Council would fund all works to ensure the building is Health and Safety compliant, option b above. It was further agreed that the Parish Council would fund the refurbishment of the VH (subject to final cost approval by the Parish Council) to bring it back to a high standard for the benefit of residents and re-establish it as a Village Hall fully fit for purpose Health and Safety compliant. Cllrs Fisher and Franklin would assist the village hall committee to provide ongoing support in this process and report back to the Parish Council at each Parish Council meeting as required. Proposed by Cllr Lee and seconded by Cllr LeCount, approved nem con.

Mareike Dacey, Clerk