

**MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL JOINT MEETING BETWEEN
NORTON PARISH COUNCIL AND VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE HELD ON 23rd OCTOBER 2017**

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Mr. A. Burt (Chair), Mrs. P. Blackmore, Mrs. K. Fullam,
Mrs. P. Mathieson, Ms. L. Paris, Mr. R. Skerry
Village Hall: Mr. R. Allen, Mr. G. Walton, Mrs. A. Walton, Phil Jefferson,
Richard Weston.
Clerk: Mrs. J. Rowland.

The Chairman outlined the vision for the hall and the need for the Council and the Committee to work together. He felt there was a need for a working group between both groups. Investigation is underway for wi-fi and how it would work for the village. There are plans for expansion/refurbishment of the hall and how help could be given. He stated the Council sets a precept each year which allows for a grant for village hall maintenance.

Discussion took place on wifi. The Hall committee has spoken to the District Councillor concerning locality funding. Mr. Burt felt there was a need for wifi to extend to the playing field and shelter. Mr. Walton stated there had been a survey and this would need to be a business tariff, quotes have been obtained for fitting 2 senders in the hall with service box, the quote for hardware is awaited. There would be a code to access, additional wiring would be required plus security cameras. A plus net account has been applied for to get the matter moving forward, at a cost of £50 a month. Council representatives agreed to support, so this recommendation will need to be taken to the next full council meeting.

Talk ensued on the flexibility of the improvement plans, hall maintenance costs each week, who uses the hall, why they use it and the facilities required, what the village wants from a hall and developing a plan. Mr. Allen stated that now there is a need at the hall for more development than remedial work.

The Committee has looked at the Great Barton hall which has been upgraded, so several areas can be used at once. Mr. Allen stated some bookings have been turned away because the hall can only accommodate one user at a time. The proposals to extend could encroach on the car park, so it was important to ensure spaces and disable spaces are adequately maintained.

As storage is also a problem Mrs. Fullam asked what is currently stored and was informed mats, tables, chairs, and other equipment.

Discussion took place as to whether pre-school could be incorporated into the development plans. However, it was felt that safeguarding and security would be an issue to address. They currently pay only a small rent so do not have the funds to pay any increased rent. The pre-school AGM is on 1st November so when a new committee has been formed discussions can take place.

The Chairman enquired about the heating. Mr. Walton stated the hall want to remain eco-friendly and efficient, however need an energy source cheap to run. Ground source requires major installation but air source is cheaper. An infra-red survey has shown where the bad spots are located. One improvement would be to clad the outside of the hall to insulate and improve the outward look of the hall.

Signed.....

4th December 2017

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Mrs. Blackmore asked if there is a figure for the total refurbishment but was informed this is currently unknown. Curtains and kitchen blinds are required. Mr. Burt offered to donate curtains and paint.

The Committee stated they are talking to a recommended professional fundraiser who has a good track record for securing funding, taking a 10% fee. Refurbishment would be on an approximate a 3-5 year time scale.

The first step would be to ask the village what they would want from a hall, with an open ended questionnaire. Mr. Burt suggested 2 members could work on a questionnaire for the village. It was suggested that the old questionnaire could be revamped and brought to the Council and Committee for views.

It was subsequently decided that a working group was not required, but for Council members to attend village hall meetings, and likewise village hall members will attend Council meetings each month. Village hall minutes will be circulated to the Council. The next village hall meeting is 21st November, and the next Council meeting is in December.

The cost of hall hiring was discussed. Mr. Allen stated the fees had been rationised and put up 12.5% to cover the cost of electricity. Hire comparisons to other halls have been made and Norton is felt to be reasonable.

SACRE will be contacted for advice on an up to date draft constitution in order for the current Model Constitution to be re-done.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed.....

4th December 2017