



MINSTER LOVELL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE HALL WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM VIA ZOOM

Present: Cllr. Jean King (Chair), Cllr. Chris Jones, Cllr. Colin Alderman, Cllr. David Haley, Cllr. Ann Williams, Alexandra Molton (Clerk).

Apologies: No apologies were received.

1. Welcome / Members present and apologies for absence.

The meeting started at 7.35pm.

Cllr. King welcomed members of the working group to the meeting.

2. Declaration of interest in agenda items.

Cllr. Haley declared an interest as the Chair of the Minster Lovell Playing Field Trust. Cllr. Alderman declared an interest as a member of St Kenelm's Parochial Church Council.

3. Confirmation of actions taken so far

The Clerk confirmed with the working group that following the last meeting in February she had been in touch with the Scouts regarding the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing some of the land around the Scout Hut in order to build a new hall, but the Scout group had only confirmed that they do not own the land and lease the building. The Clerk had also contacted Minster Lovell Methodist Church to request a meeting to discuss whether the Parish Council and Methodist Church could share a space on the current Methodist Church plot to be used as both a place of worship, a place to hold the Community Counts group and a village hall. No response was received to this request before the County entered lockdown in March.

Rev. Hugh White from St Kenelm's Church recently contacted the Clerk to confirm that he and the Diocese would be willing to undertake further discussions on the possibility of the Parish Council either purchasing St Kenelm's Hall or leasing it over a long term.

The group discussed the options which were previously suggested as potential sites in the village where a new village hall could be situated and agreed that the area encompassing St Kenelm's Hall and the recreation space managed by Minster Lovell Playing Field Trust was still the most appropriate site for this. The group agreed that the next step was to find out whether the Diocese would either sell the hall to the Parish Council or grant it a long-term 'Albermarle' lease.

Cllr. Haley suggested that the working group needed to document the reasoning behind why the other suggested sites have been dismissed as potential locations for a new village hall. Cllr. Jones confirmed that the group is not discounting the other options which were put forward, and should it not be possible to pursue the purchase or renting of St Kenelm's Hall then the working group would need to reconsider the other options.

Cllr. King asked the Clerk to confirm whether she had been in touch with the White Hart regarding the possibility of situating a village new hall and the Clerk confirmed that this had not yet taken place.

Cllr. Haley confirmed that 80% of the land around St Kenelm's Hall is in Trust and managed by Minster Lovell Playing Field Trust. He suggested that it was therefore important for the working group to initiate discussions with the Playing Field Trust in order for its opinion to be sought on the possibility of the Parish Council developing St Kenelm's Hall and the land around this.

The group agreed that it needs to be sensitive to the history of St Kenelm's Hall and how the decisions of the working group are reported to the Parish Council.

4. Future plans for the project

Cllr. Alderman proposed that the working group contacts the Diocese to find out the current situation with regards to other Church halls in the Diocese which are leased on a long-term lease and the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing St Kenelm's Hall and the land around the hall; seconded by Cllr. Jones and agreed by all.

Cllr. Williams confirmed that the working group needs to ascertain the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing St. Kenelm's Hall or renting it if purchase is not possible.

The group discussed whether the Church might be returning to the subject of selling the hall because it needs to raise funds.

Cllr. King proposed that the working group should arrange to meet with Minster Lovell Playing Field Trust before meeting with the Diocese and Rev. White.

Cllr. Haley confirmed that the Trustees are aware that the working group is focussing on the site where St Kenelm's Hall is located as a potential site for a new village hall. Following any meetings with the village hall working group the Trust would need to contact the Charity Commission for confirmation of its position with regards to the possibility of re-siting the current play provision elsewhere in the village.

The group agreed that a meeting with the Diocese would follow discussions with the Minster Lovell Playing Field Trust.

Cllr. King suggested that the working group should initially ask whether the Playing Field Trust would be interested in giving up the land under their remit to allow the Parish Council to develop the entire site (assuming that a purchase or lease of St Kenelm's Hall is also agreed with the Diocese).

Cllr. King confirmed that the working group had agreed to arrange a later meeting with the Diocese to find out whether the Parish Council could purchase St Kenelm's Hall, or lease the Hall on a long-term Albemarle lease if purchase was not possible.

Cllr. Jones proposed that he and Cllr. King attend the initial meeting with Minster Lovell Playing Field Trust and Cllr. Alderman and Cllr. Stowell attend a later meeting with the Diocese and Rev. White, as they had previously discussed the issue with them. The group agreed that this was a sensible approach.