



## MINSTER LOVELL PARISH COUNCIL

www.minsterlovell-pc.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: Alexandra Molton

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# MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE HALL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 AT MINSTER LOVELL METHODIST CHURCH

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

**Apologies:** Cllr. Jonathan Stowell.

### 1. Welcome / Members present and apologies for absence.

Apologies were sent and received from Cllr. Stowell.

### 2. Declaration of interest in agenda items.

Cllr. Haley declared an interest as Chair of Minster Lovell Playing Field Trust (MLPFT). Cllr. Williams declared an interest as a member of the community group at the Methodist Church. Cllr. Alderman declared an interest as a member of the Parochial Church Council at St Kenelm's Church.

### 3. To receive and confirm Terms of Reference for the working group.

The Clerk had circulated a draft Terms of Reference to Councillors ahead of the meeting. Cllr. Williams proposed accepting the Terms of Reference as drafted; seconded by Cllr. Jones and unanimously agreed.

### 4. To review the minutes of the Extra Parish Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and receive updates.

The Clerk had researched local village halls which were built recently and provided the following information to Councillors:

- Freeland village hall was begun in 2011, built in phases and completed in September 2013. It was funded with grants, personal donations and local fundraising and cost £200,000 in total. The hall is run by a management committee, with the land on which the hall is built being leased by the committee on a long lease from the Parish Council. The hall was of a similar size to that previously discussed by the Council and provides similar facilities for hosting events of different sizes and preparing and serving food.

Cllr. Haley suggested contacting Finstock to ask about the costs of their new village hall for a new up to date idea of costings.

The Clerk had also contacted David Mason at the Diocese requesting information about any issues around St Kenelm's Hall which might affect the Council's ability to renovate the hall but she has not yet received details of this. Cllr. King informed the group that a suggestion had been forward to use green land on the new development which was previously allocated for a village hall as a site for a new hall. This has now been allocated as a water drainage reservoir, so it would not be possible to use the land here for building.

Cllr. Jones and Cllr. Stowell have previously put forward the idea of citing a new hall where the current tennis courts are situated in the Village and reserving the land where St Kenelm's Hall currently stands for parking.



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The group agreed that the next steps are to contact the MLPFT and organise a meeting with the Diocese and Trustees for St Kenelm's Church to find out whether there are any possible ways to move forward with them. Cllr. Haley confirmed that the key issue for MLPFT is what the Charity Commission confirms must happen with the land and the specific details of the Trust Deed. Cllr. King asked whether adding badminton courts into a new hall on the current tennis courts site could satisfy the Trustees need for a recreation ground for children. Cllr. Haley confirmed that he would need to convene a meeting with the other Trustees to discuss the proposal.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact the Trustees of St Kenelm's Church and David Mason from the Diocese to organise a meeting to discuss whether it is possible to move forward with a possible purchase or lease of St Kenelm's Hall. Clerk to suggest 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> March for a meeting.**

The Clerk had contacted the Scouts Association to find out more information about the land around the Scout Hut in the Village but had not yet received an update on this. The group agreed that it would be useful for the Council to better understand the arrangement at the Scout Hut for reference even if it is not possible for them to use this land.

**ACTION: Clerk to try and find out more information from the Scouts Association about the land around the Scout Hut and the restrictions on this.**

The group discussed the intricacies of the situation and lack of clarity over whether the Church owns both the land and the hall or just the hall itself. The group agreed to start again from a fresh standpoint, aiming to find a way for the Council to purchase the land and build a hall on the current tennis court site as previously proposed.

Cllr. King asked whether the group should contact residents of the Village to ask what they want but agreed that given that a similar survey on the same issue was carried out fairly recently it was not necessary at this time.

The group discussed whether it was worth exploring the possibility of purchasing land on the new housing development to build a new hall but agreed that it was not necessary to look into this at this time and that the group should focus on the possible locations already suggested. In addition, the remaining green space on the development is allocated as a run-off for rain water so would not be suitable for building.

**ACTION: Clerk to write to MLPFT to lay out possible future actions and ask them for feedback. Clerk also to ask if the Council would be able to purchase a strip of land to square the site off if a renovation of St Kenelm's Hall went ahead.**

**ACTION: Write to Methodist Church with a suggestion of the possibilities for using the church as a shared space for community facility/village hall and church and inviting a meeting with the Council.**