

## Marnhull Village Hall

### Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting 8th February 2020

*Held in the Village Hall*

No	Minute	Action
1.	<b>Present:</b> Graham Renwick; Rob Norton; Jean McErlain; John Dowsett; Steven Finch; Lesley Ruth; Ian Pentland; Esther Finch; Peter McErlain. Plus 152 attendees.	
2.	<b>Apologies:</b> Fourteen apologies had been received.	
3.	<b>Welcome and Introduction:</b> <b>GR</b> welcomed the very good turnout of supporters of the Village Hall and thanked Sarah Lyster for providing the refreshments. He had been in touch with Tina Matthews who was now making a good recovery following her hip operation, thanking her for her services and looking forward to her return. <b>GR</b> also stated: There is a plan, outlined in a recent letter to User Organisations, how to improve communication and engagement with User Orgs and invite as many Rep Members to attend Management meetings this year as they wish; with a view to considering trusteeship for the following year if they feel that is what they'd like to do. This is a big year for the Village Hall in so many ways. <b>GR</b> asked for questions from the floor as the meeting progressed.	
4.	<b>Why are we here? AGM - process and outcome:</b> <b>GR</b> encouraged user organisation representatives to attend the meetings of the Management Committee during the forthcoming year with a view to becoming a Trustee.  At the AGM on 15th November 2019, as the sum raised would not cover the full extension, the Trustees felt obliged to offer the meeting the option of proceeding with the toilets, storage and stage area which would provide the extra space required. This option had been arrived at during a consultation period of twelve to eighteen months with votes at appropriate stages following a period of six to seven years of fund-raising. It was vitally important to start the works. The motion was passed by 57 votes to 20 .	

	<p>Following a generous anonymous donation of £25,000 and the confirmation of the Village Hall Improvement Grant of £21,000, the opportunity had arisen to undertake the extension originally envisaged, in addition to the toilets and storage facility. The stage would be left intact and the western elevation wall would be pushed out to give space for a further thirty seats. The plans and planning permission had been approved and we now needed to proceed as soon as possible so that we did not lose any of the grants. Future generations might wish to make further improvements.</p> <p><b>GR</b> informed the Meeting: The total Build cost, including Contingency, Architect, Planning and Surveyors fees is £196,500. We have, from Grants and Donations £191,000 available to spend – so leaving a relatively modest and we believe manageable deficit of £5,500. The Trustees believe that this, together with funds needed to defray the costs of some other highly desirable items can be achieved through some focused, local and targeted fundraising.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Vote:</b></p> <p><b>GR</b> read out the motion on the agenda: "It is proposed that this meeting revoke the above motion agreed at the 2019 AGM and, in view of the significant change in the fund-raising position, now proceed with the toilets, storage and extension of the Village Hall at its western elevation".</p> <p>A show of hands gave unanimous approval of the motion by all 156 attendees eligible to vote.</p> <p><b><i>The Vote taken – there followed a short information session relating to costs for which some 30 people remained</i></b></p>	
	<p><b>JD</b> talked through the amended plans which required a total build cost, including contingency of £196,500, leaving a shortfall of approximately £5,000 which had now been covered by very recent donations he had received. However, more fund-raising would be required to provide blinds and curtains, chairs and tables, decoration and the patio which would entail an approximate cost of £22,500. Further in the future, funding for work to adapt the current ladies toilets would be required. There was an opportunity for self-help with some of this work. Mention was made of the funding websites but the return to the charity was very small and corporate funding had slowed down. There were options for further funding with Gift Aid on the donations, local appeals and external grants. Stephen Boyce would be investigating the possibility of targeting smaller grants to cover equipment for specific activities, e.g. chairs. The condition of the pavilion was raised; Rob Norton confirmed that the cricket club were looking at improving the pavilion which would be done in consultation with the Village Hall Committee. Jean Miller suggested that the village residents should support the Committee by "putting your money where your mouth is". <b>JD</b> confirmed that new flooring throughout the extension and the current space was included in the costs but no decision had yet been made about the precise nature of the floor covering.</p>	

	<p>Increased car-parking was a concern among the audience. <b>GR</b> pointed out that this was a matter for the Parish Council.</p> <p>There would be some disruption during the building works but plans had been put in place to keep all user organisations informed in advance. It had been decided not to accept bookings for any outside one-off events. The Committee had been in communication with the Methodist Hall and the British Legion with a view to using their facilities, if necessary.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Close of meeting:</b> Sarah Lyster had handed £105 to <b>JD</b> from the refreshments provided at the meeting.</p> <p><b>GR</b> thanked everyone for attending and for their enthusiastic support for the proposed building project. The Meeting closed at 12.20 pm</p>	