

# WEST ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

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Date 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022		Venue & Time: W.A Village Hall, 7pm,
<b>Present:</b> Cllr Stephen Lees (in the Chair) Cllr Helen Rhymes Cllr Rachel Saunders Cllr Derek Winser	<b>In Attendance:</b> Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk) <b>Parishioners/Guests: 1</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Leanne Carr Cllr Liz Chin Cllr Andrew Pascoe Cllr Kathryn Rawlinson

REF 2022/23 MINUTES

### 106 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

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#### 107 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS:

The Responsible Financial Officer has noted that all councillors have an interest in the running and management, including future financial management of the Village Hall.

A dispensation has been given to all Councillors to enable them to participate fully in all discussions and votes regarding the Village Hall and surrounding land.

The date of the dispensation is from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 for a period of one year, the dispensation may be extended after this time if necessary.

The reason for this dispensation is to enable decisions to be taken regarding any aspect of the future of the building, surrounding land and the management thereof.

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#### 108 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- a. S106 Funds & Village Hall Update: Our April minutes recorded the following: *Further to the March minutes, we wrote to the Village Hall Committee via the Trustees and asked that they respond to us by 6<sup>th</sup> April. We have now received confirmation from the Village Hall Committee that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 they will be handing over the responsibility of the Village Hall to West Alvington Parish Council. The Councillors were unanimous in giving their thanks to the Committee for both looking after the hall through some especially difficult times and for the transfer of responsibility to enable the S106 funding to be applied for in good time. Mrs Joan Johns has very kindly advised that she will be handling the transfer with the Parish Clerk and will provide the assistance and advice required during this time.*

**The Council resolved to accept full management of the hall and surrounding grounds from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.**

The hall/land is leased by West Alvington Parish Council to the Village Hall Committee who have a fully repairing lease in respect of the property and surrounding land. The lease has now lapsed and a new lease will be required.

The purpose of this meeting was to enable an open discussion with parishioners and users of the hall. Feedback received via email and those present at the meeting was as follows:

#### What are the hurdles to overcome?

- Review the booking process and implement an improved system.
- Insufficient parking, better use of parking available, improved signage.
- Tired looking hall, not visually attractive.
- No Wi-Fi.

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- Unlicensed.
- Review of current running costs.
- Organisation of cleaning schedule & associated costs.
- Increased marketing.

### **How could the hall be improved?**

- New windows/doors.
- Improved porch area/storage.
- Better landscaping.
- Bicycle Rack.
- Reconfigure parking

### **What could the hall be used for?**

- What demand exists for the hall? What demand could there be if it were improved?
- Possibly more use by the school.
- Village social events so that people can walk there.
- Identification of potential users is essential.

### **Long term thoughts?**

- Consider the sale of the hall and acquiring other land offering sufficient parking.
- What other grants are available?
- Could the primary school obtain funding to replace with a structure that serves as their gym/assembly room?
- Replacement hall with higher roofline to permit sports such as badminton.
- Have traditional village halls had their day?

### **The Councillors then came to the following agreements:**

1. No long-term decisions can be taken without full consultation with the community. The Council resolved to issue a questionnaire on the future of the hall by 1<sup>st</sup> May. Results will be available for the June meeting of WAPC.
2. Short term repairs and maintenance will be required, South Hams District Council (SHDC) have confirmed there is at least £22k, which may be increased depending on other bids received. We need three quotes for any element of repair to be received by August 31<sup>st</sup> to enable the monies to be claimed from SHDC before the expiration date in September. The Council resolved to obtain quotes based on the feedback received on the survey results.
3. Full details will be obtained from the previous committee including (but not limited to):
  - Bookings (future/past)
  - Financials including transfer of bank account
  - Utilities details
  - Minutes from all meetings
  - Submissions to charities commission and update of details
  - All documentation regarding maintenance/upkeep/repairs/guarantees

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- b. Platinum Jubilee Sunday Event: With no one from the parish seemingly prepared to organise picnic there will be no official community event taking place. The parish council has arranged for a gift for the children at the school and the new play area/adult gym will have plaques dedicated to the Platinum Jubilee.

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**109 2022 MEETING DATES:** 5<sup>th</sup> May W.A. Primary School, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> Sept, 6<sup>th</sup> Oct, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – **June** to November Venues to be agreed.

**Meeting Ends 20.00hrs**

**Signed as a true record:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name & Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please submit to the Clerk by the last Wednesday in the month to ensure time for inclusion, circulation, and study. If a Council Member is unable to attend a meeting it would be appreciated if they could submit a brief précis of progress on their actions, if applicable, (to the Clerk for distribution) together with their apologies.

**Distribution List:** All WAPC Councillors. **For Information to:** County Cllr R Gilbert, Dist. Cllr Judy Pearce, Dist. Cllr Mark Long, Tree Warden Shirley Worrall, WAPC Notice Boards