

Joint Buckden Parish Council & Village Hall Trust liaison meeting

Monday 30th January 2023 5.30 via Zoom

Notes

Attendees: Matt Beldam, Cynthia Alers, Caroline Underwood, Sue Ashwell,

Storage

CA is in the process of getting two quotes one from Breheny and another from a smaller contractor. SA had enquired about containers as BPC needed to consider the option of containers on the allotments.

CA will send quotes when they are received

SA will send on information from the firm she was in discussions with.

Planning still needs to be considered.

SA will contact HDC and pass on the information from them

Contracts will also need to be considered. VHT needs a contract with the Junior football Club (as some funding is coming from Football Association). BPC and VHT will also need to negotiate a lease for long term security of use.

Office hire

CA and MB had reviewed the paper from SA. In principle the proposal for a fixed income was welcome but there are concerns about the rise in energy costs when the Government subsidy ends at end of March 2023.

CA and MB will take the proposal to Trustees for their meeting on 7th February

VHT will inform BPC of the decision following that meeting

It was noted that any agreement may be impacted by the energy costs, if this is the case VHT will inform BPC

Finances

BPC have agreed grant towards maintenance of the playing field. Can be paid from April 1st

CA to inform Jo that she will need to invoice in April.

Follow up on outdoor improvements

This has been difficult to progress because of lack of capacity. CU informed the meeting that a new Councillor may be willing to take the lead on this and in addition Buckden has been given a 5k grant from HDC and that could be used for outdoor improvements.

Coronation, village events

The Village Club will be arranging a number of events, they are organising a family day.

The trustees will discuss the Coronation events at their meeting 7th February.

BPC are not planning events but will maintain an overview and share where appropriate.

VHT to let BPC know if there is any additional information about the plans for the coronation.

Update from VHT

Village Club is on a more stable footing, they have doubled their membership and have turned a good profit this year. They are able to pay liabilities to VHT and are doing so. They have a full schedule of events planned and those that have taken place have been very successful.

The number of hirings for the hall are increasing, including corporate hires which are the most profitable.

Energy costs are without doubt the biggest issue. VHT want to change to LED lights and install more solar panels. There are grants available for these projects.

There are other VHT priorities which are more difficult to fund such as the paths.

BPC will consider how they may be able to support on these priorities.

Pavilion has had a new kitchen installed and this has proved to be very popular. The Football Club has put in for a grant for pitch improvement as drainage remains a problem. The VHT lawn mower needs replacing.

The application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation has now gone to the Charity Commission.

Update from BPC

There has been a big turn over in Councillors.

The budget has been set and there is a planned increase in the Precept of just over 4%. It is hoped this will be approved by HDC in February.

AOB

VHT there are still concerns about vandalism at the Valley. CU reported she has been in contact with the police to see if they can support the village but has not as yet heard back.

Date of next meeting

Monday 27th March 7.00pm