

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of 10 January 2022, 7.30 pm, held remotely using Zoom.

Note: this was an additional meeting to the normal schedule of Parish Council Meetings, arranged at short notice, to discuss issues associated with the re-roofing of the Village Hall. The only item on the Agenda was the re-roofing of the Village Hall, and all normal Parish Council business will be taken up at the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council.

1. Welcome.

The Chair of the Parish Council (Gerald Godfrey) welcomed those present at the meeting, which included all 7 Parish Councillors (Jacqui Harrison (JH), Rod Apps (RA), Penny Ward (PW), Colin Ward (CW), Andy Spinks (AS) and Lea Ingham (LI). There were four members of the public present representing the Village Hall Committee: Anne Law (AL), Melanie Thompson (MT), Brian Andrews (BA) and Polly McCarthy (PM).

2. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Village Hall re-roofing

Anne Law outlined the nature of the issues facing the Village Hall Committee in relation to the re-roofing of the Village Hall. Work had started approximately a week prior to the date of this meeting, and the roofers had discovered that the battens securing the existing panels to the roof required replacing before the new roofing could be secured. The cost of this additional work, including the provision of replacement roofing membrane, would be £6,950. AL outlined the current financial position of the Village Hall Committee, and concluded that while the Village Hall **could** pay all its bills, including the £12,233 that would be owed to the roofing company upon completion of the two contracts, this would leave the Village Hall Committee with a very low balance of funds which would create difficulties if additional costs arose in the near future. The Village Hall Committee was therefore requesting £2,000 from the Parish Council.

Members of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee discussed and clarified various aspects of the intended work and the arrangements thereof.

It was agreed that on the last day of work by Bishops, members of the Committee and the Parish Council would inspect the site to confirm that the work had been completed to everyone's satisfaction. This inspection would be separate from that undertaken by Building Control. It was noted that no further payments would be due to Bishops until the work had been completed.

It was noted that the Parish Council had made the decision at its last meeting to pursue measures on Top Road in order to address the speeding vehicle problem, and that while the Parish Council **may** be able to obtain grants to assist with that work, the likelihood was comparatively low and therefore such measures would have to be paid for out of Parish Council funds. A grant or loan of £2,000 would, at minimum, lead to a delay to the implementation of such measures. It was further noted that £2,000 represents the whole of the Parish Council annual precept income in recent years.

The meeting discussed the possibility of whether the £2,000 could constitute a grant, a loan, or some combination of the two.

It was noted that the Village Hall accounts had a year-end of the end of November, and that the annual accounts were with the auditor at the present time. The AGM of the Village Hall Committee was scheduled for February, and the audited annual accounts would be available at that point. Such accounts might help the Parish Council to reach a decision on the combination of grant and loan that would be appropriate, and it was agreed that unaudited accounts would be adequate for the purpose.

The Parish Council agreed that it would extend £2,000 to the Village Hall Committee. It was noted that no further money would be payable to Bishops until the work was complete, and therefore that the availability of funds would not be a reason for any delay to the work. It was proposed and agreed that the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council would work together to identify the most appropriate terms (for both parties) under which the £2,000 would be extended, in terms of the balance of grant and loan and the arrangements under which any loan element would be intended to be repaid. It was further agreed that the intention would be to agree these details by the end of January, and that a scheduled meeting of the Village Hall Committee on 18 January would help facilitate this. The Village Hall Committee would come back to the Parish Council shortly after that meeting on 18 January with a proposed way forward.

3. Date of next meeting

Monday 7 February 2022, probably 7.30 pm, by Zoom, but to be confirmed in due course.