

Stoke St Gregory: Pub/Shop Steering Team

2nd Preliminary Meeting

July 23rd 2018

Present: Nick Sloan, Chris Reah, Sara Sollis, Mike Blair, Lawrence Baldwin, Claire Shepherd, Sam Smith, David House, Graham Glead.

1. Introduction and Purpose:

- 1.1. At the last PC meeting there was a brief mention of the proposed community shop/pub, to the extent of stating that despite rumours, the plan is very much alive. The Parish Council accepts some responsibility in allowing understandable confusion to take hold, but there also appears to have been an undercurrent of deliberate misinformation and hostile rumour which threatens to divide us on an issue which is of importance to all of us together.
- 1.2. In brief the current position is this: the future of the Rose & Crown appears secure, which is good news. We currently do not have a public mandate to take on the Royal Oak as a community pub in competition with the Rose and Crown, but the survival of the Oak is important to many in the village and would be a desirable outcome. If it proves necessary to set up a community shop —and nothing has changed to make that less likely— there are strong arguments for locating it in the Royal Oak building rather than in the existing shop, though both options (and others) need to be explored. These are decisions not for the PC but for the Steering Group. Following a meeting of all interested parties on June 7th, those that expressed an interest in keys role on the steering group were invited to attend this meeting so that the group can finally be launched and start making independent decisions.

2. Role of Steering Team

- 2.1. The role of the Steering team was as described in the first meeting and attached separately.
- 2.2. It was pointed out that since that meeting the future of the Rose and Crown has been secured. However, all options remain open with regards to facilities at the

centre of the Village. It is the role of the Steering Team to evaluate these and make recommendations which can be presented in order to secure a public mandate.

2.3. It was also pointed out that there is a strong incentive to provide facilities for young people of the village as there is currently nothing

2.4. In order to get away from labels such as Pub/Shop and Shop+, it was suggested that we call our project 'The Heart of the Village'. This was accepted.

2.5. The Team should have a finite life with either no result (e.g. the Shop is sold) or creation of a legal entity cooperative which will take on the running of any future enterprise. Members of this body will elect a management team.

3. Membership

3.1. It was agreed that those present would form the Steering Team. Graham Glead to Chair, Sam Smith Vice-Chair.

3.2. Meetings will be open and advertised in advance.

3.3. Both Ian (shop) and Nicola (RO) have indicated they wish to contribute.

3.4. Participation is welcome, and skills will be co-opted on to the team as necessary.

4. Constitution

4.1. The constitution of the group will be informal as it is a non-elected body, but evolution of the group and transition to a legal entity will be guided by the Plunkett Foundation 'Model Rules for Community Ownership' (attached separately)

5. Bursary Application

5.1. The Plunkett foundation offers a Bursary Grant of up to £2500 to cover the cost of administrative activity when developing a business case to justify, or otherwise, a community project. This money is only available through the 'More than a Pub' initiative.

5.2. This grant will cover the cost of surveys and other administrative costs associated with exploring, defining and developing the options open to the Heart of the Village project

5.3. The Form is attached separately. It will be compiled by GG, NS and CR before being circulated for approval to the Steering Team. Viv Price of the Plunkett foundation has offered to give guidance.

6. Bank account

- 6.1. If the bursary application is successful, we will need a bank account in which to deposit the grant. LB volunteered to research possible bank options and make a recommendation to the group.
- 6.2. Signatories on the Bank account will be GG, SS and LB with any two from three required to complete a transaction.

7. Communication

- 7.1. It was agreed that full and open communication is critically important
- 7.2. LB will undertake the role of communications coordinator. All media will be used. Village Facebook, Next Door, the Village Website (NS to set up access) and not least hard copy.
- 7.3. LB will establish a dedicated email address.

8. Next Meeting

- 8.1. The Next meeting will be held on Tuesday August 14th at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall meeting room.