

Stoke St Gregory
Heart of the Village Steering Team

6th Preliminary Meeting

Jan 8th, 2019

Held at the Royal Oak

Present: Chris Reah, Mike Blair, David House, Graham Glead. Sara Sollis, Heather Venn, Nick Sloan, Sam Smith

Contribution from Ian Upshall (the Village Stores)

No members of the public

Apologies: Lawrence Baldwin

- 1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2018 were approved.
- 2. Status of Commercial Enterprises**
 - 2.1.** There were no additional comments on the status of the commercial enterprises in village
 - 2.2.** By separate e-mail Ian has indicated that while a private sale of the shop remains the preferred option, he is willing to contribute to the HOTV discussion with a view to possible incorporation of the shop.
- 3. Best Use of Space**
 - 3.1. General Comments:**
 - 3.1.1.** The importance of consulting with other ventures regarding their experiences was emphasised particularly in matters organisational and financial.
 - 3.1.2.** A general concern was raised around arbitrary decisions taken around the best use of space without consultation with the community. This consultation process could be used as a vehicle to raise the general level of interest in the project, which has declined significantly since the enthusiasm generated by the survey. It was proposed that an initial outline proposal should be made rather than starting from scratch.
 - 3.1.3.** Ian outlined that the shop occupies around 45m². Additionally, an area for storage, (20m²) a staff toilet, and an office would be required. The current shop has 114m of shelving as well as two upright fridges, two chillers, a freezer and an ice-cream chest (plus a storage fridge).
 - 3.1.4.** There needs to be security between the two sides of the business (pub and shop) to prevent casual access between the two.
 - 3.1.5.** The potential for a post office was discussed. Ian strongly argued that on a number of levels this was not a good option. Among the reasons were, space, security, incompatibility with Pay Point which is seen as an essential service and the downside risk in the event of errors.

3.1.6. Rather than a separate coffee shop, it was agreed that this facility could be incorporated into the hospitality side of the house with opening hours suited to the need.

3.1.7. The provision of facilities for younger people was emphasised. Informal discussions had shown that this would be welcomed however concerns about how it should be supervised were expressed.

3.1.8. The retention of the skittle alleys was seen as essential.

3.1.9. It was agreed that the group should seek expertise in order to determine a 'best layout'. GG to look into who could possibly fulfil this need.

4. Planning the promotional campaign for fundraising

4.1. The need to re-engage with the community was again emphasised

4.2. There has been insufficient communication on activity since the survey (see point 5 below)

4.3. We need to clarify what we are asking for before initiating a campaign

5. Communication

5.1. A concern was expressed that as all the business are seemingly operating as normal the apparent status quo has rather allowed apathy to prevail in the absence of communication.

5.2. It was agreed that a short, snappy communication would be prepared to update the community on the current status (Action SS; complete)

5.3. This communication would be posted on the village web-site, e-mailed to survey participants and posted on social media (all completed)

5.4. Minutes of these meetings will be published on the HOTV page (Action GG)

6. Application for formal status as a CBE.

6.1. This is not a simple task. The model rules need to be understood and accepted and interim roles of treasurer and secretary need to be filled. There are no obvious candidates to fill these roles. A delay in this step is inevitable

6.2. This delay may well result in losing the portion of the bursary allocated for this purpose (£700)

7. Anticipated short term expenditure

7.1. With the potential sacrifice of the bursary funds that were awarded due to elapsed time, it will be necessary to call on the Parish council to support activity.

7.2. A sum will be requested to potentially cover CBE registration, structural surveys (although we will try to minimise cost using local resources) and the cost of layout optimisation. It was proposed that up to £3000 be requested to be paid on invoice.

7.3. Contact will be made with SCF and CCS to understand what, if any funding is available from them

7.4. We should look at the possibility that any contribution from the PC is backed up with matched funding from other sources.

8. Bursary Expenditure

8.1. Bursary expenditure has a finite time limit before being withdrawn. Bookings were made against the expenditure before year end however it is not certain if these have been taken into account. GG to determine status.

9. Bank account

9.1. Payment has been received for the Buyers Survey.

10. Next Meeting

10.1. It was agreed that there should be regular scheduled meetings such that the dates can be published in order that members of the public can participate. This will be the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

10.2. The next meeting will be on February 4th, 2019.