

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FARRINGDON VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE TRUST
(Charity No: 301824)

Meeting of the Village Hall Charitable Trust on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 9:20pm in the Golden Pheasant function room

Present at the meeting were: Mr Clive Elderton* (outgoing Chair)**, Mr Tony Batley (Vice-Chair)**, Mr David Craig, Mr Peter Durrant*, Mrs Nadine Farris, Ms Alison de Ledesma, Mr David Horton, Mr Phil Mossman, Mr Graham Ryan and Mr David Williams. Also present was the Secretary, Mrs Claire Gibbs and two members of the public.

* Cllrs standing down following the Parish Council election

** The Chair and Vice-Chair roles were elected at this meeting, the roles shown above are the roles as at the start of the meeting.

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION.

Mr Elderton, the Trust's outgoing Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. He explained the history of the Village Hall Charitable Trust (VHCT) and that its purpose is to find a suitable site and build a new village hall on that site. Mr Elderton and Mr Durrant had been, as the village hall working party, working on finding a site for a replacement village for four years since the sale of the previous village hall, Massey's Folly. During the four years, two potential sites had been identified but after negotiations for both sites failed to agree a mutually agreeable price for the land, the working party returned to a possible site for the village hall, near to the church on Church Green. The site had been discounted previously as not large enough due to the trees on and around the site. The village hall capacity had been reduced to produce plans that would still provide a village hall for Farringdon whilst also providing necessary facilities for the church. The new plan is supported by the Diocese and a pre-application for that plan has been submitted to EHDC.

The members of the public left the meeting at this point. At 9:55pm.

2. TO APPOINT THE CHAIR FOR 2019 FOLLOWING THE PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

Following his election as Chair of the Parish Council, at the Annual Council meeting immediately prior to this meeting, the Trustees unanimously elected Mr Tony Batley as Chair of the VHCT.

RESOLVED: Mr Tony Batley was elected as Chair of the VHCT.

3. APPOINTMENT OF TRUST OFFICERS FOLLOWING THE PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION:

(i) TO APPOINT THE VICE-CHAIR FOR 2019

FARRINGDON VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE TRUST

Secretary: Mrs Claire Gibbs

Tel: 07765 129409

Email: clerk@farringdonpc.org

Website: www.farringdonpc.org

The Chair asked for nominations for the role of Vice-Chair of the VHCT. Mrs Nadine Farris put herself forward for the role as did Mr David Horton. Mr Batley seconded Mrs Farris and Ms de Ledesma seconded Mr Horton. The Trustees voted and Mrs Farris received four votes, whilst Mr Horton received two votes. Therefore, Mrs Farris was duly elected as Vice-Chair of the VHCT.

RESOLVED: Following a vote, Mrs Farris was elected as Vice-Chair of the VHCT.

(ii) TO APPOINT THE SECRETARY FOR 2019

See (iii) below.

(iii) TO APPOINT THE TREASURER FOR 2019

Mrs Claire Gibbs was re-appointed to the roles of Secretary and Treasurer for the VHCT, the roles form part of her job description.

Following the above appointments, Mr Elderton and Mr Durrant left the meeting.

4. TO AGREE THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Prior to leaving the meeting, Mr Elderton had tabled a proposal for a way forward for the village hall development project. The Trustees had not seen the proposal prior to the meeting, therefore, they were given some time to read through the proposal. The proposal is shown as an annexe to these minutes.

A lively discussion followed. The Trustees felt that they should be given more time to review the proposal particularly as the proposal had been tabled after a long Parish Council meeting. Regarding the proposal itself, the Trustees were concerned that the proposal as tabled did not offer the Trust the control that they were comfortable with. Therefore, it was subsequently decided that the proposal should be amended to offer the Trust more control. In addition, other options should be put forward for the Trustees to vote on. The Chair agreed to draw up alternative options to put to the Trustees, along with an adapted version of Mr Elderton's proposal. Mr Horton was keen for the way forward to be decided as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: The Chair to draw up alternative options to put to the Trustees, along with an amended version of Mr Elderton's proposal. The vote on the options to be taken as soon as possible.

5. SIGNATORIES TO THE VHCT ACCOUNT (agenda item not advertised prior to the meeting)

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Following the standing down as Parish Councillors of Mr Elderton and Mr Durrant, who are the only signatories to the VHCT account, the Trustees were asked to approve the appointment of new signatories.

In line with the Parish Council authorised signatories (approved at the Parish Council meeting prior to this meeting at agenda item 23/19) the Trust agreed that Mr Tony Batley, Mr David Williams and Mr David Horton should be the authorised signatories to the Trust's bank account. The Secretary Mrs Gibbs will arrange for this to be done.

RESOLVED: Mr Tony Batley, Mr David Williams and Mr David Horton to be set up as the authorised signatories to the VHCT bank account. Mrs Gibbs to arrange this.

6. KEY MESSAGES.

The Key Messages from the VHCT meeting were:

- Clive Elderton and Peter Durrant stood down as Trustees of the Farringdon Village Hall Charitable Trust (FVHCT) as they were no longer Parish Councillors - the Trust thanked Clive and Peter for their work for the Trust over the last four years and before, in the lead up to the sale of Massey's Folly in 2015.
- Councillor Tony Batley was elected as Chair of the FVHCT, with Councillor Mrs Nadine Farris as the Vice-Chair.
- The Parish Clerk, Mrs Claire Gibbs, was re-appointed to the roles as the Secretary and Treasurer of the FVHCT.

The meeting finished at 10:40pm.

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ANNEXE 1

FARRINGDON VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – WAY FORWARD

Decision Required

Trustees to agree that despite standing down as Trustees on 15 May, Cllrs Durrant and Elderton, continue to manage the new Farringdon Village Hall project on behalf of Trustees and that they be granted delegated authority to commit up to a total of £1,000 to meet essential project costs and that they report routinely to the FVHCT through the Chair..

Timing

To be agreed by FVHCT at their meeting on 15th May 2019.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees of the Farringdon Village Hall Charitable Trust (FVHCT) have corporate responsibility for for:

- Ensuring the charity is carrying out its sole purpose to provide Village Hall facilities for Farringdon and the area of benefit.
- Compliance with the governing document of the FVHCT.
- Acting in the Charity's best interests.
- Managing the Charity's resources responsibly.
- Ensuring the Charity is accountable.
- Acting with reasonable care and skill.

In the execution of their duties the FVHCT is supported by the Parish Clerk who is ex-officio Secretary and Treasurer to the Trust.

Latest Situation

Having confirmed the community need and support for village hall facilities in Farringdon the FVHCT have, over the past four years, explored a series of options for re-providing village hall facilities. With the single exception of the Church Green option, which is being further explored now, all other options have been proved unaffordable or otherwise undeliverable. The consequence is that following initial support from the Diocese and an encouraging feasibility study the Church Green option is now being pursued with the local planning authority. Initial pre-application discussions have revealed that despite support in principal from the EHDC the SDNPA have various conservation concerns which are now being addressed.

Way Forward

Despite standing down as Trustees on 15 May, Cllrs Durrant and Elderton, have indicated that they are willing to continue to manage the project on behalf of Trustees and be granted appropriate delegations to do so. It is considered that this arrangement will best ensure key relationships with the development consultants, Davtee, the Diocese and local planning authorities are maintained. The arrangement would follow the principal of a VH Working Group previously agreed by Trustees and would be kept under review by the Trust.