

Minutes of additional meeting of Elmsett Parish Council held on 16 August, 2024 at the Elmsett and Aldham Village Hall.

08.24.00 **PRESENT:** Alan Newman in the chair, Paul Firman, Nick Bird, Andrew Woodgate, Fiona Watt, Fran Williams District Councillor Leigh Jamieson, the clerk and 20 residents were present.

08.24.01 **APOLOGIES:** John Sones (on leave).

08.24.02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Fiona Watt, Paul Firman and Fran Williams all declared a charitable registration of interest and signed the Declaration of Interest Book accordingly and did not take part in the decision making or vote on items 04 and 05.

08.24.03 **RECESS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The Chairman opened the meeting and invited members of the public to speak. He said that he would take comments on both items of the agenda – the application and request for funding from the parish council. The parish council rep on the village hall committee outlined the proposal to change the use of the existing storeroom to accommodate a community shop, using the CIL money held by the parish council. She pointed out that the renovation would add an additional useful meeting room for the village hall should the community shop no longer require the space for whatever reason. She further pointed out that there had been a questionnaire to gauge need and that a 40% return had been received showing a need for a shop. This comment was turned around and it was pointed out that 60% did not respond.

The village hall had received 3 responses to a request for quotes. One being a quotation and 2 estimates. The village hall committee felt that the quotation although more costly would be the better option as the others were estimates. This was purely for the structural costs as all fixtures and fittings etc would be funded by the shop. All of these had previously been circulated to all members of the parish council for perusal prior to the meeting.

A number of points were put forward supporting these comments by the residents present saying that people had asked members of the steering group when the shop would be up and running. The fact that the road closure remains is also a factor to bear in mind. Another said that a shop would provide a social hub which the village lacks at the moment. The community shop would pay a rental to the village hall which would amount to the same as that which was paid by the playgroup who no longer uses the hall. A lease would be drawn up and rent agreed.

Additional fire doors would be provided, washing facilities and a portaloo. A resident wanted to know how much CIL money the parish council had and whether there were other plans for the use of the money. The Chairman pointed out that there was a sum of £142,000 CIL monies and there were no other major plans at the moment.

The chairman read comments made by the councillor who was unable to attend the meeting. In which he suggested the council grant £30,000 and that the village hall contributes 50% of the cost.

The village hall rep said that a considerable sum was needed for the day to day running costs and there was the possibility of needing some

fencing as there may be a safeguarding issue with the school who use the hall and the play area at playtimes.

The Bowls Club have already started to create a storage area at the back of the village hall to clear the storage area in question.

The chairman then asked those members of the public present if there was anyone against the proposals put forward. No-one was against the proposals.

The chairman then closed the recess for public comment.

08.24.04 **PLANNING:** DC/24/03118 - Change of use of existing storeroom and addition of three rooflights to provide community shop. New door, modification of walkway and ramp and extension of safety railings to North elevation. New fire door to South elevation. Siting of 2no 20' storage containers. Elmsett and Aldham Village Hall, The Street, Elmsett. – Members of the parish council after a short discussion resolved that they did not wish to restrict the grant of permission of this application. (Fiona Watt, Fran Williams and Paul Firman did not take part in the discussion or voting process)

08.24.05 **FINANCE:** Proposal to fund the alterations of VH to accommodate Community Shop. A proposal was put forward for the parish council to grant to the Village Hall a sum from the CIL funding monies to cover the quotation received. Discussion then took place Councillor Woodgate was concerned as to whether there had been sufficient research to ascertain the need and viability of providing a community shop. It was pointed out that the alterations would provide extra facilities and a further meeting room for the village hall should the community shop no longer require the use.

The clerk confirmed that the advice of SALC was sought on the financial issues with regard to any proposal put forward.

Councillor Bird spoke in favour of the proposal and proposed that the parish council should fund the project in its entirety using CIL funding for the alterations to the Village Hall in the sum of £61,136 inc VAT using CIL money. CIL money is for infrastructure to benefit the community and he said this would seem an appropriate use of the money. This was seconded by the Chairman and therefore carried. Details of the funding arrangements including the possibility of the PC acting as paymaster would be resolved in discussions between the parish council and the village hall.

08.24.06 **DATES FOR NEXT MEETINGS:** 10 September, 15 October, 10 December, 21 January, 2025.

The meeting closed.

Signed:-..... Dated:-.....
Chairman

