



**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF YAXHAM PARISH CHARITY HELD AT
YAXHAM VILLAGE HALL IN THE DAVID MYHILL ROOM
AT 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th February 2019**

Present: Cllrs Lowings (Chairman), Martin (Vice-Chairman), Bennett, Crummett, Dimoglou, Goldsmith and Harvey.

In attendance: Mrs Pat Baldwin, Locum Clerk, and 19 members of the public

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The Chairman welcomed everyone including his fellow councillors. He reiterated that as this was a meeting of the Parish Charity, councillors had to consider the interests of the Charity rather than the Parish Council.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence. None

3. To receive disclosures of interests and any applications for dispensations.

Cllr Goldsmith had submitted a disclosure of interest in item 5.a) as a Trustee and employee of the YVAA requesting a dispensation to speak, but not to vote. After discussion the Chairman proposed that Cllr Goldsmith speak during the public session and leave the room for consideration of item 5.a). This was AGREED.

4. Public session on charity matters.

A number of members of the public asked questions and made points about the Charity and the funds held being for the benefit of the village. The origin of the funds and the purpose of the charity was explained.

Cllr Martin as acting RFO informed the meeting that:

- The funds invested as at 30th September 2018 stood at £310,829.69
- The cumulative interest net of grants at 14th December 2018 = £ 42,937.15
- And if the 28th February interest was as the 30th November 2018 payment then the cumulative interest net of previous grants = £ 45,320.92.

The cumulative interest represented the funds available for grants, and the grant applied for would be around half the available funds.

Mrs Oechsle as Chairman of the NP4Yaxham Working Group said that the Working Group supported the YVAA application as it was for the benefit of the community. Other members of the public emphasised the importance of investing in the village hall for the long term.

Cllr Goldsmith explained the heavy use of the Hall had contributed to the need to refurbish particularly the toilets, and the need for additional power capacity to meet users needs. Cllr Dimoglou raised questions on the need for the upgrade of the electrics, to which Cllr Goldsmith responded, assisted by Bob Gust, a YVAA Trustee.

Cllr Goldsmith left the room at this point.

5. To consider any current submitted grant applications.

- a) YVAA Trustees Grant Application – Upgrade and Refurbishment of existing WCs, installation of disabled WC, upgrade to 3 phase Electrical supply, in the name of Daniel Hull, Trustee.

The Chairman invited Daniel Hull, YVAA Trustee, to address the Charity on the grant application. This he did and set out the key points from the Application, including that if this grant application is for 50% of the costs and if successful then the YVAA would submit a similar application to Breckland Council for 30% of the costs, with the balance met from the YVAA from reserves and fund-raising. Breckland required the other funding sources to be confirmed before it would consider the application to itself – and the Breckland fund would be closing in the near future. The Chairman thanked him for his presentation (attached), and opened the discussion to the councillors present. All commented in turn. Cllr Dimoglou said that as Ward Councillor he would be consulted on the grant application to Breckland and would express his objection to that application. The Chairman took a comment from David Myhill, former Chairman of the YVAA, who confirmed that there had always been issue with the electrics and this application would address that.

The Chairman summed up that the comments from the floor and from most councillors welcomed the application as a significant village project for the general benefit of the community, in line with the purpose of the charity, and with half of the cost of the project coming from other grant funding and YVAA reserves and fund-raising, it therefore meets the charity's large grant policy, agreed 22nd March 2018. It will be professionally managed by Spire with a reputable main contractor in Brocks.

The Chairman then proposed that the Grant be agreed, subject to, quarterly reporting by the YVAA as to the progress of other grant applications, fund raising and progress of the project, and that the Charity would reserve the requested funds for 12 months, to be released to the YVAA if and when the Breckland grant was confirmed and the project ready to commence. This was AGREED by 5 councillors to 1. Cllr Dimoglou asked that his vote against be minuted.

6. To note any other items for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting, including from the Public Session. None

7. To note date of next meeting
Thursday 28th February 2019 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Attachment: YVAA Grant Application Presentation by Daniel Hull, YVAA Trustee

Thank you for organising this meeting at short notice and for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of this grant application.

Yaxham Village Hall is a fantastic facility that is used by hundreds of people from the village and surrounding area every week. It was built with an enormous amount of hard work and dedication from the early Trustees of the YVAA and other members of the community, some of whom are present here this evening.

It was undoubtedly the envy of other villages with its location, carpark, and playing field, bar and has been subject to several extensions and improvements over the past 30 years. The size of the car park, the floor in the main hall and air-conditioning are extremely well regarded to this day.

The hall has never been used more, with regular bookings every weekday morning and evening. This despite other villages in close proximity having built comparable village halls of their own.

From the young children who use the play equipment and the drama group, to the WI, lace makers, car boot sales, Stitchers, and exercise classes, the hall provides space for community groups and interests, and enables local entrepreneurs to conduct and grow their small businesses.

Such a popular amenity has become the victim of its own success. Wear and tear have left the toilets in a poor state. Limescale build up has taken its toll on the plumbing. The toilets regularly block and back up and are often cited as a reason why weddings and party organisers do not choose to use Yaxham Hall for their events. The ladies toilets are particularly bad, a situation made worse by the fact that the majority of the hall's users are female.

There is also the issue of compliance. The disabled toilets do not meet acceptable standards and the floor in the bathrooms are not sufficiently non-slip and are difficult to clean leaving them unhygienic and dangerous.

We contacted the regular hirers of the hall. All said the toilets needed refurbishment and 97% of those who responded (of 31 responses) stated that the toilets would have a detrimental effect on their business/ group and that they would benefit from a compliant disabled toilet.

Full refurbishment and the installation of a water softener would give this village hall fresh and modern toilet facilities for many years to come.

Anyone who has been to the hall will have witnessed the lights flicker. The original electrical supply is barely suitable for a modern house, let alone a hall with 3 rooms and an external changing room that could all be used simultaneously. The electrical upgrade has been recommended by UK Power Networks and will bring Yaxham Village Hall up to date and future proof it for many years to come. Recently, there has been criticism of the hall and of the current YVAA trustees. I ask you to put these to one side and base your decision this evening, solely on the Charity's policy on use of funds.

Trustees come and go; this decision is about the future of Yaxham Village Hall.

The proposed project will be will be overseen by Spire Property Consultants and undertaken by Dereham based JK Brocks Builders who are both well regarded and experienced in conducting works of this nature.

This grant application meets all the criteria set out. No local project would benefit the inhabitants of Yaxham, of all ages, more than this. The YVAA intends to match the grant from the village charity £ for £ if successful with a combination of a further grant from Breckland, savings and fundraising in the form of introducing Gift aid and GASDs, organising a Big Lunch, donation boxes, the bar and coffee mornings.

We appreciate that we are asking for a substantial amount of money, but a positive vote from you will be the vital step forward towards the urgently required refurbishment of this much valued village asset, and enable it to continue serving the whole community for another 30 years.

I ask you all to please support this application.