

Hilton Parish Council
PO BOX 8094, Swadlincote, Derbyshire. DE11 1FR
Tel: Office 01283 730969 – Mobile 0771 9599132
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.org.uk
Website: www.hiltonparishcouncil.org.uk

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY HILTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
18TH MARCH 2014 AT HILTON VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7PM**

Present:

Cllr Smith (in the Chair)
Cllr Fox, Cllr Nield, Cllr McDonald and Cllr Spencer

2 District Councillors, 1 County Councilor and 24 members of the public were in attendance.

AGENDA

PART 1 - NON EXEMPT INFORMATION

1. Minute Number 1508/14 - To Receive Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted by Cllr Cooper and Cllr Darlington.

2. Minute Number 1509/14 - Variation of the Order of Business.

There were no Variations to the Order of Business.

3. Minute Number 1510/14 - Declaration of Members Interests.

Resolved: Cllr Smith, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Fox, Cllr Nield and Cllr Spencer declared a Personal Interest in the items on the agenda pertaining to the Hilton Village Hall.

4. Minute Number 1511/14 - Public Speaking.

Minute Number 1511/14/ A - Public Speaking

Members of the Public raised the following matters:

- Andrew Brooks the Chairman of Hilton Harriers Football Club asked if Public Speaking could be extended. He also asked if the subsidy was for nonprofit making organisations only.
- Marion Pringle from the WI stated that without the help of the Parish Council the small groups may not be able to continue. She said that it was out of principal that the Parish Council should help.
- Jenny Keery a former Hilton Parish Councillor and Former Village Hall Committee Member stated that she had read the two acts listed on the agenda and asked if the Clerk could explain under what regulations were being used by the Parish Council. Under the acts she agreed that the Parish Council did have the power to give money to a Registered Charity but not a Limited Company. She stated that as of 01.04.2014 the Village Hall would be a Limited Company answering her own question by stating that it would be a Dual Registered Charity Limited by Guarantee. She stated that as a Tax Payer the Parish Council should help everybody but she was not happy for the Parish Council to subsidise the Village Hall.
- Jenny West from the Quilting Group stated that their group was fortunate to have a large membership. However the hire prices as of 01.04.2014 would increase the rate by 81%, which may squeeze them out. She agreed with the proposal from the Parish Council to help the Village Hall to reduce the hire cost.
- Jenny Keery again stated that she was not in agreement for the Parish Council to help the Village Hall as a Council Tax Payer.
- Caroline Morris the Leader of Playgroup stated that the Village Hall was handed over to another committee about 16 years ago. It was agreed that the Village Hall would provide a place for the people of the Village to use. She stated that she did not mind as a Tax Payer with the Parish Council supporting the Village Hall by way of a subsidy but she did not agree to this being for all hirers for example commercial groups.

- Andy Motram from Bowls Club explained that in the past there had always been two tariffs charged at Hilton Village Hall, one tariff for nonprofit making organisations and another tariff for businesses. There is now only one tariff which he thought was a mistake.
- Veronica Stewart from the Gardening Club asked why the tariff system had been changed.
- Liz Kolkman the former Booking Clerk to Hilton Village Hall and a former Hilton Parish Councillor stated that she was on the former Village Hall Committee. She stated that 3 years ago there was £40k in the bank which was supported by the Parish Council. She had looked at the Village Hall accounts filed with the Charity Commission and reported that £53k had been claimed back in VAT. She explained that had the former Village Hall Committee not registered for VAT this would not have been the case.

The Clerk replied that this was not strictly true, VAT could have been claimed via the Parish Council's system, but the Parish Council were not informed or asked.

- Liz Kolkman then stated that she assumed that the Village Hall was now in difficulty and said that the only people to blame were Hilton Parish Council, as they were responsible and had put the Village Hall into this position. She went on to say that as of 01.04.2014 the Village Hall would become a Limited Company with a board of Directors. She confirmed that it would still be a Registered Charity but the Directors would only be liable for £1.00. She asked how the Parish Council would get their money back if they handed it over to the Village Hall, then asked would it be gone forever.
- Andrew Brooks the Chair of Hilton Harriers Football Club commented on the budget on the Village Hall Website and explained that the expenditure for the year was £62k. He asked if the Committee were confident that by reducing the prices they would have more hirers.
- Mike Sacker from HATS suggested that the Village Hall Committee review what the Village Hall is for. They also need to advertise the Village Hall to the Community.
- Pat Swift a member of the public had come along to the meeting out of interest. He was not in agreement with the Parish Council supporting the Village Hall.
- Andrew Brooks the Chair of Hilton Harriers Football Club stated that if the Parish Council agreed to support the Village Hall, the Parish Council needed to be clear on how the Village Hall would receive the money and at what point the support would stop.
- Jenny Keery a former Hilton Village Hall Committee Member and former Hilton Parish Councillor asked if the Village Hall Committee had any outstanding loans against the Village Hall. She stated that the building and the land had already been transferred into the new Dual Registered Charity with a Board of Directors that would only be liable for £1.00. She stated that if the Village Hall Committee were to take out any loans and then go bust they would lose the lot. She then stated that should this happen the building and land would also be lost for the community forever and this was a concern that she had already raised with the Parish Council.
- Jenny West from the Quilting Group stated that the price to hire the Village Hall will increase from 01.04.2014. If the Parish Council do not help it will squeeze everyone out and a new venue would need to be found.
- Cynthia Warren from the Hilton and Marston History Group explained that she was the only person at the meeting who had helped to raise money for the very first Hilton Village Hall, who had also served 20 years on the original Village Hall Committee. She stated that before any decision was made to change the Village Hall Charity to a Dual Registered Charity Limited by Guarantee the public should have been consulted. This should have been in the same way as when the old Village Hall was knocked down and the current Village Hall was built.
- Andrew Brooks the Chair of Hilton Harriers Football Club asked about the Hilton Village Hall Forums and asked if these could be held in the evening when people could attend. He also asked if the information on how much support the Parish Council would give the Village Hall would be known during the meeting.
- Karen Tubby from Hilton Mums and Tots stated that they support the Parish Council supporting the Village Hall because without it their group would not be able to afford to continue.
- Julie Kenwood from HATS asked if some money could be set aside by the Village Hall Committee to help with advertising to try and obtain new business.
- Julie Patten the village Ward Member on behalf of SDDC and DCC said that she was in attendance to speak on behalf of Karen Cresswell who currently runs a dance group from Hilton Village Hall. She would be in support of the Parish Council helping the Village Hall because if the hire prices go up she would have to look elsewhere for a cheaper venue.
- Liz Kolkman the former Booking Clerk to Hilton Village Hall and a former Hilton Parish Councillor asked the Clerk again to state under what regulations the item on the agenda was being discussed under.
- Cllr Julie Patten the Village Ward Member on behalf of SDDC and DCC asked the Parish Council if they could suspend Standing Orders once they have made their decision to allow members of the public to speak again.

- Eileen McArdle spoke on behalf of all the voluntary clubs and said that any help the Parish Council would offer Hilton Village Hall would need to reduce the hire rates to almost the original level for groups to be able to continue.
- Andrew Brooks the Chair of Hilton Harriers Football Club stated that the Parish Council were looking at supporting the Village Hall to redress the balance. What would the Parish Council do if other venues like The Mease Pavilion then reduced their prices. Would the Village Hall Committee then ask for further help.
- It was reported that the Art Club had already decided not to continue at Hilton Village Hall.

Minute Number 1511/14/B –Police Representatives Report

There were no Police Representatives present at the meeting and there was nothing to report.

Minute Number 1511/14/C – County Council Representatives Report

Cllr Patten was in attendance, there was nothing to report.

Minute Number 1511/14/D – District Council Representatives Report.

Cllr Patten and Cllr Plenderleith were in attendance, there was nothing to report.

5. Minute Number 1512/14 - Clerks Report

- a. Request from Hilton Village Hall Management Committee for help from Hilton Parish Council to subsidise Hilton Village Hall hirer charges - under Conference facilities - Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities - Local Government Act 1972, - s.144, Community center's - Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives - Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 - s.19, Power to acquire, provide and furnish community buildings for public meetings and assemblies - Local Government Act 1972, - s.133.

The Chair read out the request from the Hilton Village Hall Management Committee as follows:

Following feedback from the Hilton Village Hall Hirers about the new hire rates as of 01.04.2014. The Village Hall Management Committee had asked the Parish Council to support them financially to allow them to:

- Reduce the base hire charges by 10%
- Reduce the difference to 15%
- To allow them to give a 30% subsidy to all nonprofit making community groups

Reducing the base rate by 10% would reduce the projected income by approximately £8k per annum.

Reducing the differential to 15% would reduce the income by approximately a further £10k per annum.

Hilton Village Hall would also like to offer Hilton nonprofit making Community Groups such as Mums and Tots, the Gardening Club, WI, HATS etc a 30% subsidy which would cost approximately £4k per annum.

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to request financial support from Hilton Parish Council for £20k.

The Chair reported that Under the Powers detailed on the agenda, this was something that the Parish Council could legally do to help the Hilton Village Hall Charity. The Chair firstly asked the Council if they were happy to support Hilton Village Hall.

Resolved: All Councillors in attendance were unanimous in their decision to support the Village Hall Financially as a Registered Charity. This was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Nield.

The Chair asked the Council if they were in agreement to giving the Village Hall as a Registered Charity £20k as per their request.

Resolved: All Councillor were unanimous in their decision to give £20k financial support to Hilton Village Hall as a Registered Charity. This was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Fox.

The Chair asked the Council if they were happy to Suspend Standing Orders to allow the members of the public in attendance to comment on the main resolutions passed by the Council.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Nield that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow the members of the public in attendance to comment on the main resolutions passed by the Council. All Councillors were unanimous in the decision to suspend the Standing Orders.

Members of the public made the following comments:

- Liz Kolkman the former Booking Clerk to Hilton Village Hall and a former Hilton Parish Councillor asked if this would be a one off payment or a year on year rolling payment. She asked if more hirers came on board would the payment need to be increased or was this based on the current hirers. She then stated that she would prefer the money to have been given to The Mease Football Pavilion and not Hilton Village Hall.
- Jenny Keery a former Hilton Village Hall Committee Member and a former Hilton Parish Councillor asked if the 10% would be for all hirers and if so she was not in agreement with this being given to businesses for example Tindle's Dance. She stated that this should have been considered prior to the Village Hall increasing the prices.

It was explained that the Village Hall Management Committee had completed a budget. This was the first time this exercise had been completed since 2007. It was explained that the Village Hall had to cover the expenditure/overheads with the income generated from the hire of the halls. Hilton Village Hall is a Registered Charity but the community do not fundraise for the Village Hall.

- Jenny Keery a former Hilton Village Hall Committee Member and a former Hilton Parish Councillor stated that a budget was completed by the former Village Hall Committee on a monthly basis. She stated that this was always given to the Parish Clerk on a monthly basis for her to report back to the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk disagreed with this statement as information was not forthcoming from the former Village Hall Committee and that was one of the main reasons why the former Village Hall Committee were dissolved.

- Jenny Keery a former Hilton Village Hall Committee Member and a former Hilton Parish Councillor then stated that the blame for the finances at the Village Hall have to lie somewhere and it was with Hilton Parish Council.

Jenny Keery was reminded that the meeting was to discuss the Parish Council financially supporting the Village Hall, and the decision had been made as above. She was also reminded that the most important fact was to keep the Village Hall going for the good of the community.

- Jenny Keery a former Hilton Village Hall Committee Member and a former Hilton Parish Councillor stated that as a Council Tax Payer she was happy for the Parish Council to support the small community groups but not businesses.
- Liz Kolkman the former Booking Clerk to Hilton Village Hall and a former Hilton Parish Councillor suggested that the current Village Hall Management Committee should allow current hirers to sit on the committee to give their input and should possibly even let them become Directors.
- Ian Hey replied to Liz Kolkman that both he and her as the former Booking Clerk to Hilton Village Hall sat on a previous Village Hall Committee. He reminded her how little if any interest there was from hirers or members of the public to sit on the Committee at that time. He explained that the proposal put forward by the Village Hall Committee to the Parish Council was not looking at grants to support the individual groups. The Village Hall were looking for financial support from the Parish Council to allow them to reduce their hire charges to a reasonable level but still be able to cover their overheads. Ian explained that if this worked and attracts more hirers into the Village Hall long term, this would increase the hire and long term future of the Village Hall.
- Liz Kolkman the former Booking Clerk to Hilton Village Hall and a former Hilton Parish Councillor then commented that this would only make bigger overheads.
- Ian hey replied that this was negligible as the hall is already open 7 days per week early morning till late at night.

It was reported that the Parish Council would review this situation later in the year along with the Village Hall Management Committee.

Most people in attendance from the smaller nonprofit making groups were in full support of the Parish Council's decision to financially help the Village Hall and this came across during the meeting.

The Chair closed Public Speaking and asked for a resolution to be passed to reinstate the Standing Orders.

Resolved: Cllr Fox proposed that the Standing Orders be reinstated and this was seconded by Cllr Nield.

The Chair asked the Parish Council to consider how the budget set for 2013/2014 could be amended to account for the Parish Council giving Financial Support to Hilton Village Hall in this financial year.

Resolved: All Councillors were unanimous in their decision for the budget to be amended for authorisation at the March 2014 Parish Council Meeting. This would be taken from the money set aside to build the Parish Council garage and Office. The Budget for 2014/2015 would also be amended to move the tarmacking of the Parish Council car park and The Mease car park. Both would be put on hold during 2014/2015 and the budget for these items would be added back to the Parish Council garages and office.

The Chair asked the Parish Council to consider on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, what criteria should be used to give the 30% discount to nonprofit making organisations:

Resolved: All Councillors were unanimous that the criteria should be nonprofit making organisations or charities, they only paid subs or a small membership fee, and they did not employ staff. This was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Fox

Resolved: All Councillors were unanimous that the Secretary to Hilton Village Hall who was also the Parish Council Clerk would be given delegated powers to make this decision on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee. This was proposed by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Spencer.

16. Minute Number 1513/14 - Date of the next Meeting

Resolved: The date of the next Hilton Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as 26th March 2014 at Hilton Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Signed.....Dated.....