

WALSINGHAM RECREATION TRUST

Refurbishment Working Group

Present:

Brian Landale (Chairman), Lee Acton, Joe Goswell, Scilla Landale, Tom Lane, Elizabeth Meath Baker, Vanessa Paige, Keith Tuck, James Woodhouse (Vice-Chairman) and Tim McDonald

**Meeting on Wednesday 8 February 2023
at 7:15 for 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall, High Street**

MINUTES

1. Chairman's opening remarks

- a. The Chairman welcomed everyone for attending at short notice and explained that it was importance to get together at an early stage following the fire at the Village Hall. His words covered some of what was covered in the agenda, but he added that Jerome Mayhew had visited on Friday afternoon and had offered his assistance if required. The Chairman said that it was a great sadness that a 13-year-old could start a fire that was so destructive and although it was important to see that appropriate measures were taken by the police in dealing with arson, it was hoped that the impact of conviction of on a teenager's should also be considered. The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to the Fire Brigade and Police for their prompt action. He also thanked Vanessa, James, Joanna, Elizabeth and Andrew McLaren (Walsingham Estate building manager) for the work they had put in the aftermath of the fire. He said that it was heartening to note the support from so many people in the village and the wider community who had been in contact. He hoped that out of the disaster good would come and the community would rebuild something that is better.

2. Apologies from Julia Marozzi, Nigel Morter and Clare Williams were accepted.

3. The current situation.

- a. Summary: On the afternoon of Monday 30 January the Village Hall was seriously damaged by a fire which is believed to have been started in a wheelie bin outside the kitchen door. The fire brigade tackled the blaze but the roof of the hall and the outside wall collapsed. On 2 February, the police arrested a 13-year-old boy on suspicion of arson. He was questioned and has since been released under investigation while enquiries continue.
- b. The Loss Adjuster appointed by the insurers visited the site on Thursday 2 February and is preparing a report for the insurers. There is not much left of the structure of the main hall; the roofs and ceilings of the kitchen, bar lounge and entrance lobby are damaged. However the snooker room on the south, and the changing rooms and store room to the north west were spared the fire (but there might be water damage). It is believed that the Village Archive and the photocopier are safe but they may be slightly damp.

It had been agreed on a without prejudice basis that the following works can be carried out

- Purchase and installation of Heras fencing to secure the site (The Walsingham Estate had arranged for Heras fencing to be erected to secure the site and Andrew McLaren was getting a quote to purchase the fencing as this would be more cost effective than hiring in the long term.) It was agreed that the purchase of fencing should go ahead as advised.
- Removal of the gable end of the roof near the entrance of the property (James has done this).
- Breaking down the external door to the archives to enable these to be removed and boarding the entrance up. (To be done when the new home for the archive and photocopier is ready at the Parish Hall).

It was agreed to ask Plandescil to provide engineering and surveying input as advised by the Loss Adjusters and recommended by the Walsingham Estate. Fees for dealing with this

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incident through to reinstatement of the building would be covered under the insurance policy.

It was noted that:

- c. The electricity supply had been disconnected by UK Power Networks. The suppliers have been informed and are in the process of closing the account.
- d. The water had been turned off at the stop tap. Anglian Water had been informed.
- e. Wi-fi: Plusnet are transferring the broadband supply to the Parish Hall.
- f. Bookings:
 - i. The Coastal Community Supermarket is now using the Parish Hall
 - ii. The Youth Club has found a temporary home
 - iii. Refunds for bookings are being made.
 - iv. Binham Village Hall, Hempton Memorial Hall, Wells Maltings and Alderman Peel School have offered support.

4. Action now:

- a. Purchase Heras fencing (to be organised by Andrew McLaren – with thanks). Lee Acton would make regular checks of the fencing (as often as possible) to ensure that it remained secured.
- b. The Clerk would ask Plandescil for a quote to deal with the incident through to re-instatement of the building.
- c. (And find an architect). It was noted that Tom had made contact with an architect about the refurbishment of the Village Hall, but his visit had been cancelled due to the fire. It was agreed that he and other architects would be invited to put forward proposals when a brief had been drawn up.
- d. Arrange for removal of archive and photocopier to the Parish Hall. It was noted that the manpower would be forthcoming from the Catholic families. A date would be arranged. The Clerk was asked to contact Norfolk Copiers regarding the moving of the photocopier.
- e. Find storage / new home for undamaged items:
 - i. Stove could be moved and install in the Parish Hall
 - ii. Fridges: stored or found new homes
 - iii. Crockery & cutlery and other kitchen items: could be stored in the container or used in the Parish Hall.
 - iv. Chairs and tables: could be stored in the container or perhaps a dry barn could be used.
 - v. Snooker table: the Loss adjuster was getting a quote for removal and storage or perhaps it could stay where it was if the minor damage to the roof was repaired and the structure was safe.
 - vi. It was hoped that the commemorative plaques in the Hall and Bar could be rescued as these were important to the community.

5. Way forward: Offers of help with fund-raising, filling in grant applications and helping with planning the new hall have come from number of people.

a. Fundraising e.g.

- i. Justin Harmer: concert on 31 March in the RC Church, Friday Market: Creakes Chamber Choir and The Walsingers Children's Choir conducted by Justin Harmer, will be performing two Requiems side by side in the same concert - the John Rutter setting in English and the ever popular Faure version in Latin. Tickets are modestly priced at £5 to encourage as many audience as possible to attend and contribute to this fundraising event for the rebuilding of the Village Hall. Concessions are free.

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Donations are also invited beyond the ticket price. This was a very kind offer and it was hoped that it would be well-attended. Justin was organising a range of advertising (local radio, newspapers and TV) and in the Village Newsletter, poster on notice boards and on social media.

- ii. Donna Mackenzie (manager of Norfolk Farmers' Markets) has offered to run a monthly farmers market (crafts / food) on the playing field with all proceeds going to the rebuilding of the Village Hall norfolkfarmersmarketmanager@gmail.com. It was agreed to take up this offer.
- b. **Ideas for what a new village hall** would look like: e.g.
 - i. Secure and safe storage for the village archive
 - ii. Accessible
 - iii. Energy efficient
 - iv. High environmental standards
 - v. Large hall, smaller meeting rooms
 - vi. Snooker room
 - vii. Kitchen
- c. Organise opportunities for **Village Consultation / Participation**
 - i. an event in the Parish Hall seeking ideas and wishes
 - ii. crowd-source funding e.g. Just Giving
 - iii. 'Buy a Brick'
- d. Thank you to Keith for getting examples photos and plans of village halls which were circulated. It was suggested that a 'tour of village halls' could be undertaken to gather ideas. It was also suggested that it would be useful to find out the cost of recent new-builds.

The Chairman led a vote of thanks to the Clerk. It was hoped that people would assist the Clerk with all the extra work e.g. with grant applications. It was noted that the Estate Office would continue to help as much as they could.

6. Next Meeting to be arranged.

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Joanna Otte, Clerk to Walsingham Parish Council and Walsingham Recreation Trust, Tel. 01328 822366
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Agenda prepared by JO: 07/02/2023