

Slaley Commemoration Hall Management Committee

Minutes of Special Meeting held on Wednesday February 21st 2018 at 7 p.m.

Members present & apologies

Rosaleen Doonan, (Chairman), Michael Elphick,(Vice Chairman), Bobby Johnston (co-opted back onto the committee), Margaret Rowell, Debra Taylor, Pat Wilson (Secretary) & Ann Wright (Booking Clerk).

Apologies, Marge Rastall, Helen Savage, Margaret Weatherley (Treasurer), Brenda Hutchinson.

1. Discussion with Kevin Doonan –

a) Mr. Doonan asked the committee to give him a brief of what people wanted, not how the committee thought those requirements should be provided inside the building – that was his job. He explained that village halls in general were under capacity for storage so many different groups stored their “requirements” inside the building.

Brief: Level with current floor toilets included disabled, somewhere to hang coats, storage space for groups, better lighting, two spaces in operation at the same time, entrance, bar possibly in a café type area where soft drinks could also be served. Green credentials, secure storage, clean energy policy. Nice venue that play to the views – atmospheric space – another room – flexible lay-out - multi functional space with lots of electrical points for home to business type meetings. Lending Library. Parking and retained grassed area. A building which is friendly for both young and old. Showers were suggested and rejected. Space to north at ground level – any good for storage table tennis table, unused toddler equipment, bicycle rack – BBQs outside tables and chairs during winter etc.

b) Plans to be submitted

Mr Doonan said he would have a first draft mid-March and hoped that the final plans could be submitted by the end of March to enable an approved set of plans to be attached to the GW application.

2. Builders quotes and time scale of work

Names of local builders – Andrew Nixon Hexhamshire Builders
Dodwell Brothers
Watson Builders (recently did pointing work)
Manning Brothers Stocksfield

It was suggested that the builders were contacted and made aware that plans would soon be ready and a grant application needed some idea of building costs in May. Also to ask that if chosen could/would they complete the work by June 2020.

3. Consider Business Plan (February 2018 version).

Every page was gone through, agreements and amendments were made. With regard for more affordable houses section 1.1 it was suggested we say “ NCC are revising the green belt restrictions for market and affordable housing up to 2030 and local landowners have been advised to register any land they may consider for development under the SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment).

ME with help from HS will make an application for improved audio-visual equipment.

Our target for income and for hall use is at least two regular groups each week bringing in an additional income of £20 per week. Our action plan is to offer start-up incentives for new groups and make more of social media the latter would need a dedicated person to implement this. Sandra who wrote the Business Plan wrote *“If the renovations do not go ahead, the committee believes there will be a continuing gradual decline in hall usage as locals hiring the hall for private functions, seek more modern venues”*.

4. Garfield Weston 60 Anniversary capital grant Application

Deadline for applications June 30th 2018 (must include planning permissions)

Shortlisted applicants are visited by member of grants team July/August 2018

Panel of GW Foundation Trustees assess shortlisted applications Sept 2018

Announcement of successful applicants October 2018

Grant must be spent by 2020

The committee looked at the application so far and gave its permission for RD and PW to carry on with the application. ME suggested asked Louise Curry to look over it before submitting.

5. Fund raising update

The March musical evening was unlikely to happen due to business commitments, it was wondered if Gwen (programmed for May) could do a flower demonstration during the Easter period. PW to ask. ME was considering a special film from Norway with bought in food for the May period – this was enthusiastically accepted. AW suggested that Ann Holmes has knowledge of someone who organised fashion shows – PW to contact. MR suggested a Table Top Sale.

MR also asked if a thank you letter could be sent to the Methodist chapel for donating three tables.

ME asked about GDPR and how we contact people to let them know about events, apparently, we should be asking them to give their permission. Check with CAN.