

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL** HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
11TH MARCH 2014 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: There was no one in attendance

		Actions
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr M Sunderland and Cllr Wragg</p>	
2.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.</p>	
3.	<p>VILLAGE HALL UPDATE: Cllr Roberts explained some of the background to the situation with the Village Hall (VH) and has attended their last 3 meetings. The Social Club has now ceased, the PC having contributed to the associated legal costs in finalising its closure, due to substantial money owed. Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Peacock and Cllr E O'Regan for coming to the last VH meeting too as the atmosphere within the meeting as a whole was difficult. Cllr Roberts is concerned that the situation does not seem to have moved on.</p> <p>There is a large debt owed and the VH Committee either have to accept that it will not be voluntarily paid, in which case take it to the small claims court but that may involve action against local people, which they seem unwilling to do and the alternative is to write the debt off and move forward (the Inland Revenue will claim money before the VH anyway and it will need to be explained to the Charity Commission.) Cllr Peacock asked if the VH or even the PC could be liable for unpaid debts? Cllr Roberts would think not but has volunteered to check this at the Citizen's Advice Bureau.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts has suggested the debt is written off. Cllr Roberts is very concerned about being involved as a PC representative as it is so bogged down in local politics and isn't approached with a business perspective to result in a viable business in place.</p> <p>There was a bid submitted by the Cricket Club which was submitted quite late before the VH meeting which hasn't been shared, despite Cllr O'Regan asking for it at the meeting and Mr Bates agreeing at the meeting, but refusing at a later date. The PC feel it is very important that this and any similar bids are viewed and given due consideration.</p> <p>Cllr Peacock said that the PC need to keep involved as to whatever the vacant part of the building turns into and a general hub / community facility with a meeting room, cafe, library etc would be a good solution?</p> <p>The vacant area will need some money spent on it but generally a good clean would make a huge difference.</p> <p>The VH need to take some outside independent advice as to what would be viable from a business / community point of view, as whatever the most voted for solution on the village questionnaire may not be a viable option. There are many people on the VH Committee who are too involved in the process to view it independently and outside support in this matter should be sought. It is also imperative that all members of the VH Committee now confirm their agreement to work to a plan as a corporate body rather than as representatives of user groups with their own agendas. A small sub-committee of the VH Committee could be ideally</p>	Cllr Roberts

	<p>suited to take this forward, with the outside business support in place.</p> <p>The PC needs to look at the constitution - Clerk to seek it out via the Solicitor.</p> <p>There is another aspect to this which is that the PC will be receiving some Section 106 money in the near future, an element of which could be used to support the development of the vacant building. This would need to be done with the clear understanding on conditions of spend etc, making sure it supports a proposed viable and feasible business plan, making it a separate entity to the VH under the heading of 'off-site provision of community facility space.'</p> <p>The way forward is to view the paperwork if possible from the Solicitors and communicate the concerns to the VH Committee, in order to make swift progress to a successful conclusion for the vacant area at the VH.</p>	Clerk
4.	<p>OTHER MATTERS: The date of the next PC meeting is Tuesday 18th March 2014 at 7:30pm at the Chapel.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8:20pm</p>	