

Tutbury Old School Community Association

Minutes of a meeting of Tutbury Old School Community Association held on Thursday 19th September 2008 at the Tutbury Institute, High Street, Tutbury at 7.30 pm

Present

Joanna Woodberry	Tutbury Pre-school
Jane Taylor	Tutbury Parish Council Member
Liz Staples	East Staffs Borough Council Member
Pete Steadman	12 th Burton, 1 st Tutbury & Hatton Scout Group
Tim Spencer-Smith	12 th Burton, 1 st Tutbury & Hatton Scout Group
Bob Fraser	Staffordshire County Council Member
Di Needham	Staffordshire Youth Service
Arthur Tipper	Tutbury Charities
Malcolm Wardle	Tutbury Residents Association
Bill Crossley	Tutbury Parish Council Member
Kay Hickinbottom	Community Action Support East Staffs (CASES)
John Bridges	Tutbury resident
Graham Smith	Tutbury resident
Pat Harvey	Tutbury resident

Apologies

Deb Bacon	Community & Learning Partnership
Graham Lowther	Staffs County Council Children & Lifelong Learning
Dave Kennedy	Tutbury Arts Group/Music Festival
Trevor Hathaway	East Staffs Borough Council Member
Carolyn Coxon	Community Action Support East Staffs (CASES)

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 6th August 2008 were agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Joanna Woodberry had not been to CASES, but was intending to attend the Funding Fair on Wednesday 24th September 2008.

Update from Councillor Bob Fraser

Councillor Fraser had received written confirmation from Peter Traves of his willingness to work with TOSCA and mentioned a timescale of 12 months to resolve the matter, subject to satisfactory progress being made by TOSCA. The contents of the letter being made known to the meeting, it was passed to Jane Taylor for safe-keeping.

Further to this letter, Councillor Fraser had met with both Peter Traves and John Tradewell (Director of Law & Governance SCC) on Tuesday 16th September 2008.

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There was a discussion about the options open to TOSCA. John Tradewell stated that future plans required them to realise a number of assets including Tutbury Old School, in spite of that fact that there are currently a number of users.

The question of utilising the principles in the Quirk Report was raised again by Councillor Fraser, but John Tradewell felt this was un-realistic as it would not allow them to realise the value of the asset. This lead to a discussion on the value, as under current economic conditions, the value will be decreasing. After some discussion, Councillor Fraser stated that a value of £250,000 (excluding the car park opposite) had been suggested and proposed that a value of £150,000 would be a more realistic expectation. After more discussion about the location, property, number of unsold flats and other factors meant that whilst Peter Traves would not agree the final value, he accepted TOSCA would find it easier to raise the lower amount. Furthermore, Peter Traves would enter into discussion with Councillor Fraser regarding the ‘hot buttons’ TOSCA should press (for example the demonstrable need for youth provision, Pre-school and a Children’s Centre) and the discussion Councillor Fraser might have with John Taylor (Leader of the Council) and the timing of such a discussion. For his part, Councillor Fraser agreed to come back to TOSCA and encourage money-raising activities.

Type of Organisation and Recommended Governing Document

Following agreement at the previous meeting and further research by the Chair and Secretary, it was put to the meeting that TOSCA should register as an unincorporated charity and adopt the Charities Commission model constitution as completed with the relevant details, namely the date of adoption, name and objects. The two objects are firstly, ‘to preserve Tutbury Old School as a community facility for the benefit of the inhabitants of Tutbury and the surrounding area’. Secondly, ‘to maintain and manage the facility for the current users, the majority of whom are children and young people, and encourage new users’.

The constitution requires three officers, namely Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and a minimum of 3 trustees. Pat Harvey agreed to be nominated Treasurer; this was unanimously agreed after Councillor Liz Staples proposed and Councillor Bob Fraser seconded the appointment.

It only remained to agree that a quorum should be six members, which should include 2 out of the 3 officers.

Adoption of the Model Constitution

The completed constitution was duly adopted and signed by all those present.

Sources of Funding and Business Plan

The Chair explained the bank account was almost completed; the 3 signatories are to be the Chair, Secretary and Maria Guest.

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Lloyds TSB had required a business plan detailing the likely sources of funding. Joanna had a list of 8 sources which added up to £100,000 (the amount on the bank account application form). Cathy Russell of the Community Council of Staffordshire helped identify the sources.

There followed a discussion about various sources of funding. The Fundraising Fair on 24th September will offer many sources.

Dave Kennedy had elicited a number of suggestions from Andy Halden of the Community Council of Staffordshire. This included a community assets transfer; also mentioned by Cathy Russell. TOSCA should not lose sight of this possibility.

It was the consensus that it was time to call a Public Meeting to demonstrate the need to retain Tutbury Old School; Tutbury Village Hall being almost fully booked by day and evening, there not being an outdoor area or any storage space and the need for a Children's Centre in Tutbury.

There would need to be a structural survey and independent valuation; feasibility grants are available from Awards for All.

It was suggested that a sub-committee be formed to detail a business plan to include the Chair, Secretary, Di Needham, Dave Kennedy and Graham Lowther.

A number of sources of funding were mentioned; such as the Co-op, East Midlands Airport community fund (Tutbury is on the flight path), Princes Trust, Heritage Lottery (due to age of building being over 100 years), Esme Fairbarn Foundation, Future-builders and Adventure Capital Fund.

Di Needham suggested it might be worthwhile writing to local solicitors to ask about any trusts which they administer to which TOSCA could apply.

Tutbury could have rural deprivation indicators and is out-lying.

Bill Crossley proposed using Tutbury Parish Council to call a Public Meeting. The venue is to be Tutbury Old School on either Wednesday 12th or 19th November 2008. The date is to be confirmed by Di Needham and Jo Woodberry and then communicated to Tutbury Parish Council.

Update on Cornmill Lane Car Park

Councillor Liz Staples confirmed that the car park is in the forward plan for a capital bid and has been valued by ESBC. An ESBC officer (engineer) is in negotiations with Staffs County Council for a price for its purchase.

Correspondence

CASES Notice of AGM
E-mail from Dave Kennedy/Andy Halden
Letter to Councillor Fraser from Peter Traves

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Any Other Business

Bill Crossley informed the meeting that there was to be a meeting of Tutbury Parish Council on Monday 22nd September to discuss whether the council was able to pledge an amount of £5,000 to TOSCA to enable it to register as a charity more readily. Tutbury Parish Council had not been able to discuss this at any earlier meeting as it was not specifically on the published agenda.

Tim Spencer Smith suggested a meeting of current users of Tutbury Old School to discuss possible practical issues surrounding sharing of the building. Di Needham has already arranged a meeting to which the Scout Group is invited, in addition to Pre-school and Graham Lowther.

Bill Crossley stated that Tutbury Parish Charities own most of the Richard Wakefield School site and are going to register interest in the land. The house (leased by the Scout Group) which is part of Tutbury Old School was sold by Tutbury Parish Charities separately to Staffs County Council, before the later exchange of land and property. Bill Crossley urged TOSCA to clarify exactly what is included in the sale of Tutbury Old School; it is imperative as no mention has been made of the Scout Group's lease and this may be because this part of the site is not included. Councillor Bob Fraser will establish the exact extent of the property.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 29th October 2008 at 7.30 pm to be held at Tutbury Old School. Cornmill Lane, Tutbury.