

Tutbury Old School Community Association

Minutes of a meeting of Tutbury Old School Community Association held on Thursday 8th January 2009 at the Tutbury Institute, High Street, Tutbury at 7.30 pm

Present

Joanna Woodberry, Dave Kennedy, Jeanne Minchin, Peter Twining, Malcolm Watson, Jo Jones, Di Needham, Pat Harvey, Graham Lowther, Bill Crossley, Arthur Tipper, Pete Steadman, Gill Cook, Jane Taylor and Liz Staples

Apologies

Deb Bacon, Trevor Hathaway and Malcolm Wardle

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19th November 2008 were agreed and signed as a true record.

Application to Register TOSCA as a charity

It was reported that TOSCA has been successfully added to the Register of Charities, its number being 1126976. A hard copy of the entry has been received. Joanna Woodberry formally thanked Jane Taylor for compiling the application.

Report on Business Plan and Independent Survey/Valuation

Since the last meeting, Joanna has instructed a surveyor who has almost finalised a survey and valuation of the building. He has to meet with a roofing contractor before he can complete his report and this meeting is scheduled for next week. His report will include his opinion on the state of the building, what remedial work might be required and in the light of this, what might be a reasonable offer.

Joanna reported that she had attended a meeting at which Councillor Bob Fraser, Councillor Eric Drinkwater, Graham Bott of Staffordshire Youth Service, Bill Crossley and Councillor Liz Staples were present on Friday 19th December. Councillor Drinkwater is the member charged with the sale of the building and was not aware of Peter Traves' letter allowing up to 12 months for TOSCA to raise money to buy the building, however, he was prepared to honour this. Furthermore, it was suggested that were TOSCA to make an offer, based on the independent valuation, accompanied by a business plan showing how the building was to be managed, then the offer would be considered. In order to give TOSCA the time to raise the money, there could be some licence agreement drawn up to enable continued use of the building whilst funds are acquired.

The surveyor has offered to negotiate on behalf of TOSCA, for a fee. He has experience of such negotiations. The consensus was that a professional would be needed but funds would need to be raised to employ him.

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Regarding the business plan, Joanna, Jane and Mark Llewellyn has met the evening before the meeting to make a start on the business plan. A further meeting is arranged in 3 weeks to review the business plan. It is critical to produce the business plan within the next month to 6 weeks.

There followed a discussion about who else ought to be involved in drafting the business plan, after which it was agreed that the draft be sent to both Di Needham and Graham Lowther for comment, as they have experience of writing business plans for children's and young people's service provision and are more than willing to share their expertise.

The next meeting will be an opportunity to report back on the surveyor's report and the completed business plan.

It was confirmed that the whole of the building and land is to be included in the valuation.

Report on Tutbury Christmas Festival stall

Jane Taylor thanked the youth club for their help in raising over £17 on the two stalls; Youth Club by offering do it yourself Christmas craft for 10p per go and TOSCA a wheel of fortune. Jane reported that she had made the petition in support of TOSCA her priority so did not raise as much as she could on the wheel of fortune. She was assisted by members of youth club in collecting signatures and added to effort in the Tutbury Institute following the closure of the stalls. Between 250 and 300 people signed the petition and there were many supportive comments.

Local Fundraising Event Ideas

Joanna suggested a fundraising event involving young people in late February to early March in the early evening. Saturday 7th March was agreed upon.

A skittle alley is available from Tutbury Institute.

Di Needham would ask SCC for permission for a bar, to issue tickets and would check on the number of participants allowed.

Ideas are needed for games.

Di Needham will ask if Tutbury Youth Club members would organise a raffle. All prizes gratefully received.

Correspondence

Letter from Charity Commission to confirm registration of TOSCA, with a hard copy of the entry for number 1126976

Letter from CCLA

CASEnoteS

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Update on Cornmill Lane Car Park

Liz Staples joined the meeting to give her report.

There has been no response from SCC to Paul Farrer, ESBC. However, Councillor Staples reported that all capital funds in the next financial year will go to refurbish the Meadowside Leisure Centre and all other capital bids are on hold. This was agreed to be extremely disappointing not only to TOSCA but to Tutbury as a whole.

Any Other Business

Di Needham suggested that bids for funds such as the Burton Breweries Charitable Trust should receive an application as soon as possible and certainly before the end of March.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 29th January 2009 to be held at Tutbury Institute, High Street, Tutbury at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.