

Tutbury Old School Community Association

Minutes of a meeting of Tutbury Old School Community Association held on Tuesday 2nd June 2009 at the Tutbury Old School, Cornmill Lane, Tutbury at 7.30 pm

Present

Joanna Woodberry, Jane Taylor, Councillor Bob Fraser, Bill Crossley, Deb Bacon, Dave Kennedy, Pete Steadman, Malcolm Wardle, P Twining and Di Needham.

Apologies

Trevor Hathaway, Pat Harvey, Liz Staples, Carolyn Coxon, Arthur Tipper and Jill Page.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28th April 2009 were agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Bill Crossley reported that the book about the old school is at the printers. There will be 400 copies printed at a cost to Tutbury Parish Council of £250.

There has been some good publicity following the last meeting both in the Burton Mail and on Central News; a reporter from the latter having spent 2 hours at the pre-school Spring Fair. There was a reasonable length report featuring 4 interviewees; Caroline Stringer, Jenna Roberts, Pete Steadman and Joanna Woodberry. The old photos from Bill Crossley were also featured.

Business Plan

The amendments agreed at the last meeting had been made and the revised business plan sent to Graham Bott by e-mail for comment.

Graham's prompt response was read out by Joanna. In it he suggested that the business plan needed more detail about the day to day operation of the building, who would be on the management committee and how financial control would be maintained. He noted the comment about the financial information and offered to arrange additional breakdowns to be supplied.

It was conceded that it had been assumed, rather than explicitly stated in the plan, that there would be a voluntary management committee until and unless there were sufficient funds to employ staff. It was envisaged that cleaners would be employed as now. The management committee would review finances.

Joanna read out a further response enquiring as to how long the reasonable period of time to raise the money would be. Joanna replied that TOSCA envisaged some

negotiation on the price and the terms and therefore was not prepared to commit to anything in the business plan without some discussion and a process whereby both parties would ultimately achieve a mutually realistic price. Graham agreed that there could be a ‘without prejudice’ discussion but that the business plan should be submitted with a request for such a discussion so it could be updated based on any outcome of such a meeting. However, it was not possible to confirm who to submit it to due to the forthcoming elections, so this will have to wait until some time after 4th June depending on control of the county council.

Pre-school had been asked to book the building for September by SCC Youth Service. Although there is no written contract, it was suggested by Deb Bacon that there was an entitlement of at least one term’s notice.

The scout lease has a notice of 6 months but there has still been no official contact from SCC on this or any other matter.

The conclusion reached following discussion about the notice periods involved was that realistically there would be a time span of 12 to 18 months at the least to resolve the matter of disposal of the building to TOSCA or otherwise.

Summer Fundraising Event

It was agreed that TOSCA would sell tea, coffee and cakes on Saturday 4th July 2009, by kind permission of the scout group and Tutbury Horticultural Society.

The book about the school may be available for sale or to give away; Bill Crossley will ask the Clerk to Tutbury Parish Council to contact Mr Pye’s son and confirm that it would be acceptable to sell the book and give the proceeds to TOSCA.

Tutbury Junior Band may play at the event.

Judging of the entries for the horticultural show will be at 12 noon, with the school being open from 12.30 until 4 pm.

Correspondence

Letter of support from Community and Learning Partnerships
Reminder to renew membership of CASES

Any Other Business

Bill Crossley pointed out that the ivy growing into the roof needs removing. Di agreed to pass this on. Bill has other concerns about the state of the building and he pointed out that a schedule of dilapidations would usually be drawn up when a building such as the old school changed hands. The market, rather than speculative, valuation of the building would be reduced by the value of the repairs required.

There was also further discussion about the timing of the next TOSCA meeting in relation to the forthcoming county council elections and consequent uncertainty as to who the interested members of SCC would be after 4th June. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Graham Bott, and relevant SCC members and officers, as soon as

practicable to include Joanna and Jane as officers of TOSCA, and Pat Harvey if she wished, but it was agreed that it is very important that Pete and Caroline are also included as representatives of the current users.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 6th July 2009 to be held at Tutbury Institute, High Street, Tutbury at 7.30 pm

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.