

BUXHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Support the Crown Committee meeting on 27 October 2021 held in Buxhall Village Hall

Members Present: Cllr Steve Farrell (SF), Cllr Chris Hall (CH), Neil Acheson (NA), Charlie Robinson (CR),

In Attendance : Tina Newell (Clerk), Penny Otton (County Councillor) (PO) and sixteen members of the public.

271021/01 Members present voted to appoint CH as Chairman of the Committee.

270121/02 CH accepted the position of Chairman and commenced the role with immediate effect.

271021/03 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from David Chamberlain due to work commitments and Ben Nickell due to being away.

271021/04 Members present accepted the apologies for absence.

Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations:

271021/05 In accordance with the Nolan principle of honesty SF informed all members his principal private dwelling neighbours The Crown.

271021/06 There were no dispensation for consideration.

Public Forum:

271021/07 A resident confirmed they would be against borrowing money from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) to purchase The Crown.

271021/08 PO stated Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) have various pots of money with very experienced officers to help the Parish Council with such projects. PO also suggested an online shopping account called SMILE.

- 271021/09 Following a very successful Crowd Funding exercise for a local pub a member of the public asked if the Support the Crown (StC) group had considered this as a route to funding.
- 271021/10 A resident suggested the longer-term picture needs to be considered, this is more than just funding to buy the asset. Consideration for the on-going maintenance of the fabric needs to be given thought. Concern was expressed over the need to balance the use of The Crown with that of the village hall; the hall is used for social functions providing valuable income to this community asset.
- 271021/11 CH raised a concern over using Parish Council funds to acquire an asset which is priced for sale higher than the 'red book' valuation.
- 271021/12 A resident suggested the pub should be kept for the use of future generations; to allow personal interactions and an opportunity to meet over a drink and dinner.
- 271021/13 Further information was requested regarding the duration of the Asset of Community Value listing and when the Moratorium period will be initiated.
- 271021/14 CR raised the question if the landlord declined any reasonable offer how would this effect the ACV and if deemed necessary could a compulsory purchase order could be made?
- 271021/15 CR confirmed StC have an ongoing conversation with the current landlord and the Clerk confirmed the Parish Council are in frequent open dialogue also.
- 271021/16 **To agree a plan for how best to 'Support the Crown':**
After a lengthy discussion and taking into account residents concerns and thoughts all members present agreed to the make the following recommendation to the Parish Council:

The committee to produce a leaflet, at no cost to the Parish Council, advertising a Parish Open Day. CR proposed the leaflet should be distributed in January 2022. This was agreed by the committee with the Open Day being later in January or early February 2022.

The Parish Open Day to be hosted by the committee offering residents the opportunity to hear from other community groups who have been involved in a similar project.

The committee agreed to meet again Tuesday 23 November to confirm the wording of the leaflet and the specific date for the open day allowing all committee members to be involved.

The committee to meet in February to consider the feedback from the Parish Open Day before providing feedback to the full Council in March 2022.

271021/16 All members agreed the date of the next meeting would be 23 November 2021 at 7.30pm.

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