Meeting Minutes

Way forward -PC/VHC 2nd Liaison Meeting - Community Survey Response 01/10/26

Attendees
Richard Morris, Steve Russel, Clare Taylor, Tavid Dobson, John Morgan, Clive Hawkins, Mike Smith, Janet DeVries, Chloe Foreman, Pat Cooper, Ed Walsh,
Lorraine Pace (Minutes Sec), Mark Tomkins (Chair)

1. **Welcome**
   Mark welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance

2. **Apologies**
   Richard Winch, Nick Harvey, Will Draper

3. **Introduction**
   Mark provided a short introduction and also established some meeting ground rules. He made the following points:-
   - Open Info Days were now completed and hopefully all had seen and read the Consultant's Report on the Community Survey. It had been posted on the Parish Council (PC) Website.
   - His apologies were proffered on behalf of the PC for the amount of time it had taken for the PC/VHC to get to this meeting. A lot of work had gone into all three of the PC surveys and the PC had a process they wanted to follow to be fair to all key stakeholders and residents of the Parish when distilling and refining the data gathered so far.
   - He asked for a positive meeting to be conducted with courtesy being demonstrated by both parties and hopefully a full and frank discussion would be achieved. All of this should be done whilst considering what was in the best interests of the community.
   - It was asked for all attendees to keep the meeting on subject, that being **only** The Community Survey Response Report (CSRR)
   - Any debate should centre around the broader view and not necessarily specific detail. We need to understand how the Community Responses affect what we (PC/VHC) can do and provide for the Community.
   - Mark reminded the meeting that he truly believed Working Together means Work Better and is something both the PC and VHC should strive for.
   - Lastly Mark acknowledged that the VHC may not want to be involved in further plans for the community on the scale as demonstrated in the CSRR as the work load would be quite heavy. If that was the case, then he asked if the VHC could please inform the PC. However, if this was the case, the PC would unfortunately have to carry on, on its own. Mike Smith confirmed the VHC would be part of the initiative under the criteria detailed above.

4. **MUGA update**

Mark gave an update on the MUGA and the major points covered are detailed below: -

- Full Planning Permission has been granted so the Project can now proceed.
- Mark stated that comments were made from the Community at the Open Info Days reference to reducing the footprint of the MUGA to one tennis court size. Some initial thoughts on the reduction were voiced and discussed such as the potential of the footprint being further away from the rear gardens of The Street, lower construction cost with the ability to release budget for allocation to other residents wishes for increase sporting/activity infrastructure, ie badminton court, skate park etc.
- Chloe stated the meeting that public toilets are so far missing from proposals for a multi-use games area, and need to be included in plans for the complex. It was acknowledged by the PC that it was considering various options.
- Following a question from Ed Mark confirmed to the meeting that the work on the MUGA would commence within the next two years.

5. **MSDC Grant position**

Clare gave a brief overview on the position of Grant availability and discussion with the MSDC Grant Team. The key points were: -

- MSDC Grant Team were very supportive in their preliminary discussions and offered excellent advice and guidance
- The Grant Team was made fully aware of the Community Survey Response (CSRR) and the direction that the Badwell Ash Community were wishing to head.
- The Grant Team have requested that all Grant applications for the Parish need to be 'as one' in their submission to MSDC. Future funding applications by the Parish to MSDC will likely stall unless they demonstrably reflect the full range of community interests e.g. VH, Church, PC etc.

6. **Community Survey Response Report Overview**

Mark gave a brief overview of the CSRR: -

- It was generally acknowledged that The PC had an excellent response rate (>40%) to their third Community Survey, with very positive comments and ideas
- There were several good positive comments received on behalf of the VHC regarding the aesthetic of the current building and its perceived condition.
- The independent Consultants concluded from CSRR that VH and playing field should be the hub of community, but the residents would like more varied facilities being available at the Location.
- The PC have a priority list to share with community groups to define a Community Development Plan (CDP)

7. The perceived effect of the Community Survey Response with wishes/thoughts of the VH Trustees

- During the discussion, it became clear that the VHC had not yet had the opportunity to read the CSRR and could not provide comment to the PC at that time. The VHC agreed to review the CSRR in detail and present a list of proposals to the next meeting.
- Chloe stressed that we need to deliver in the first-year elements of the larger plan that prove our commitment to our shared vision and the community.
- Clive asked if the PC thought the demand for major remodelling of the VH was a high enough percentage to give a mandate? Mark stated that there were several aspects of the CSRR that could be included in the overall scheme e.g. Café (VHC to look at how this can be provided), Bar (similar situation to the café), Badminton/pickle ball facility, permanent storage etc.
- Clive said the challenge is keeping cost to users down in order that they will still come.
- Janet commented with reference to balancing the existing older generation with the incoming new families and residents to the village. How to get the new residents interested in the VH activities as this seemed to be an issue?

8. How do we incorporate Community Survey Response Report into our Community Plan and PIIPs

- There was general agreement that our proposals must reflect the community needs to be fulfilled, and paint a financial picture of the long-term investment and function
- Richard, and John argued that significant up-scaling of vision is now required, and that the group should start from where we want to be, not from where we are now.
- It was generally agreed that a 'Big Change' and 'Collaboration' was needed in the way the PC and VHC do business with each other. A full Business Plan should to be formulated with a Timeline to meet a Vision for how the community's outstanding needs will be met.
- Clare suggested that as in CSRR outputs we target local users already traveling to nearby destinations (Bury, Walsham, Elmswell, Norton) to return their usage to the Parish.
- Mike responded to a direct question about financial stability and stated that "The Village Hall is viable in its present form."
- John suggested that we all investigate the enhanced facilities available in nearby villages e.g. Norton, Walsham Le Willows, Bardwell as these are examples of enlarging village facilities to better meet local needs and enhance revenue streams.
- It was noted by Clare and Mark that the Walsham representative who attended the PC's Open Info Days said that their residents would use a high roofed court for badminton etc as their parish did not have that type of facility

9. Next stage of the process (The Way Forward)

9.1. The PC agreed to prepare and share a draft 'Working Group' Mission Statement with the VHC for agreement prior to the next meeting. It was agreed that collaborative working is needed to draft a shared mission, based on the priorities arising from the Community Survey.

9.2. Agree a further early joint meeting date (provisionally 3rd November) where agreement of Combined Mission, Project proposals and 'The Way Forward' would be jointly discussed and agreed.
(Note from the Chair: - I believe it would be good if both parties could think about what important statements, they would want to see in a combined Mission Statement. These statements should reflect the importance of the results of the Community Survey and how we will achieve them for the community.)

9.3. The PC and VHC will read and fully understand the requests and wishes of the community detailed in the full CSRR (copy available on PC website) and come to the next meeting ready to debate and agree 'The Way Forward'.

10. Any Other Business

- Pat and Janet stressed that crucial to raising the VH revenue stream to offset the VH's maintenance and fixed costs, 'movers-in' to the village (those buying on new housing estates) are encouraged to take up local facilities, and that the Village Hall service offerings respond to their needs.
- John suggested that as there are currently only 6 VH Trustees, the VHC might internally question the range of skills available, and whether they need additional help on their Board.
- Steve reminded the group that other interests such as St Mary's Church need to be properly included in the range of the Communities funding needs, and any opportunities for enhanced service provision.