

BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Extraordinary meeting

Draft minutes for approval at the meeting on 9th September 2015

Present Cllr P Daubeney (Chairman), Cllr N Martin, Cllr J Kendall, Cllr P Russell
In attendance The Clerk Mrs S Gale,
Also present 18 members of the public.
Date Thursday 2nd July 2015
Opened at 7.30pm Closed at 8.25pm
Subject Burley Parish Council extraordinary meeting

1. Public Participation

The Chairman asked Cllr Russell to summarise the Burley Living History (BLH) project that has now come to an end. Cllr Russell said the project began when Wessex archives ran a course on how to record oral history. A Lottery grant was obtained for this purpose. Cllr Russell extended his thanks to Sandy Simpson for her work on the project. Most recently a Jubilee DVD has been edited, produced and is now available to purchase. Many artefacts have been donated by local residents to the BLH project. Archives and assets of the project have been displayed at several exhibitions. The BLH lottery grant and surplus monies have now been spent and a decision needs to be made whether a Heritage Centre is something that is wanted by the village; it would have to be run by volunteers. The Chairman said BPC will continue to insure and secure the artefacts, currently held in the old Red Cross hut.

2. Discussion on how to safeguard the future of Burley Heritage and its assets; including the possible formation of a Trust.

Cllr Russell said apologies had been received from Dionis McNair, Peter Bromfield and Graham Tucker.

The Chairman asked Philip Buckley to summarise the advantages of a Charitable Trust. Mr Buckley suggested that a charity is formed as this would be transparent and governed by the Charity Commission. He said this is not costly or complex, is run by a group of trustees and can have members who have a say in decision making. Trustees are volunteers and are not rewarded; however it is possible to employ paid staff. If money is raised there are tax breaks e.g. gift aid. A member of the public asked if trustees carry any liability. Mr Buckley replied that trustees do not carry financial liability and that liability can be limited. However there would be responsibilities to make sure the charity is run properly.

A member of the public asked if a survey of properties in the village had been carried out to find a location for a permanent exhibition. The Chairman said some work had been done on this and that some possible monies may be available from Lottery grants for refurbishing an old building rather than a new build.

The house next to school was suggested by a member of the public. The Chairman said that this is owned by HCC and used by the school. Cllr Russell said a location in the centre of the village would be preferable.

Deer Hall was raised as a possible location by a member of the public. The Chairman said that this is owned by BPC but Little Deers Day Nursery is no longer looking at moving. He added that this would be the wrong location as it is not in the centre of the village.

Cllr Russell suggested that a lottery application should be made ready for when a building becomes available as a permanent home for a Heritage Centre. A member of the public asked if another lottery grant can be applied for as BLH have already had one granted in the past. The Chairman confirmed that the Lottery fund will not give more money for the same purpose; however a different aspect may be successful. He added that the Lottery would prefer restoration of an old building to a new build.

A member of the public asked if the current location of the old Red Cross Hut could be utilised. Access was raised as an issue and although it is currently used for storage it is too small for exhibitions.

John Carter suggested that a committee be formed with objectives.

A member of the public asked if the area needed for a building had been calculated or a business plan put together. Cllr Martin replied that advice had been taken from Lyndhurst New Forest Centre and a plan put together on long term management for a new build. A member of the public asked if a new build had been discounted. The Chairman replied that it had not but it is harder to get a grant for this. Cllr Russell said that Mr Avery, NFNPA has said he will support a sympathetic new build for this purpose; however this will cost a large amount of money that the Lottery would not supply 100% of.

A member of the public suggested placing cabinets in the village hall to display some artefacts as an advertisement for the BLH project.

Cllr Russell suggested a committee be formed with the purpose of considering the next steps and in particular raising money now to support a lottery application in the future.

Volunteers were requested by the Chairman and the following came forward: David Etchells, Irene Dixon, Philip Buckley, Roger Hutchins, John Carter and Philip Mackworth-Praed. It was suggested that this working group could co-opt/invite others that are not present tonight. The Chairman said he would write a draft remit to show objectives and timescales for the working group (PD).

Philip Buckley said the purpose should be to attract further artefacts, run more exhibitions and that finding premises is a project for the future. The Chairman added that any exhibitions require running costs so money needs to be raised for this purpose. A member of the public said exhibitions will keep people aware of artefacts so that further donations are forth coming.

The Chairman said the remit of the group would be published in the village magazine.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.