



MEETING MINUTES

To be held at: No 14 The Square, Rhynie Friday 4 March 2016 7pm

Present: Averil Stewart,

- Apologies for Absence

Masons

- Colin Mumford presented the Masons position and details of the condition of the hall (see note at end of minutes)
- They are looking for RCT's help to make improvements to the existing space and how this could be shared with community groups if RCT could help with the funding
- Have advised that we are working on some questionnaires and some of the group are going door to door to get a better feel for what people think is needed in the village
- We have agreed that RCT could arrange for a feasibility study to be carried out on the church to see what possibilities are available – Mike / Colin to arrange

Community Action Plan

- Agreed that once we get the results of the questionnaires and details of other volunteers we should look at preparing a Community Action Plan and try and bring all the groups together to agree what is required for the village
- Examples of other communities action plans are available online
- New streams of funding will become available over next 5 years

Community Questionnaires

- Completed: Mike – 47 Colin – 62. George and Diane still to do
- Averil has asked if we could try and get these completed by the end of the month so that we are in a good position for the AGM

Big Lottery Fund – Freedom of Information request.

Discuss documents that Big Lottery are considering releasing (response required by 5pm 9th March:

- RCT application form
- Letters of support from Huntly and District Development Trust (x2) and Aberdeenshire Council. Action Averil/Mike/ Debbi – COMPLETE
- Community consultation survey results
- Rhynie Hotel Business plan – **Can't make public – to be discussed**
- Rhynie Hub BP1 – Development Plan – **As above**
- Rhynie Presentation May 14 – Feasibility Study – Rhynie Community Centre
- All agreed that no issues with the above being issued (with the 2 exceptions) and Mike has gone back to the Big Lottery Fund to confirm we are happy for the details to be released

Available Funding

- Yorkshire & Clydesdale Bank Foundation
- People's Health Fund – Active Communities Fund
- The Big Lottery
- Scottish Land Fund – Reid Hutchison has advised (via Hazel McLaren) that he is happy to look at the Land Fund wording for us
- Leader Funding
- Vatenfall Raw Data – Contact Ian Catto for this as it might help with the Community Action Plan – **Action: Averil – still outstanding**
- **Action: Averil – Still outstanding**

100 Club – February winners

- 1st – Kate Hunter
- 2nd – Catherine Merchant
- 3rd – Jim Smart
- 4th – Mary Duncan

AOCB

Gordon Arms Hotel

- A meeting is due to be held with John and Sheila to let them know our stance re the hotel – ie we are only bale to offer what the hotel is valued at – which has now reduced to £180k following closure – **Action – Averil / Colin N**

FILE NOTE: MASONS HALL

Colin M and Stuart advised that there is no public funding available to the Masons as they are a 'closed' group.

Meetings were held in January and February to address the declining numbers which partly appear to be as a result of the poor condition of the building which is cold and unappealing

At the meeting the Senior members of Aberdeenshire West Masons agreed the following:

Harmony Room – to be put right for people visiting

Proposal was made that 2 lodge members should approach RCT with a view to offer the Lodge as a Community Hub. It is currently only utilised 2% of the time

It is hoped that if the hall can be shared RCT would be able to raise the funds to put it back into good order.

It is felt it would be suitable for Heritage / Archaeology and Community Use possibly with a long lease proposal

It is believed that the hall would be big enough for Bowling / Badminton but this needs to be explored

Electrics need to be brought up to modern standards

It is unclear if the building is listed – Hazel McLaren may be able to assist with this RCT have agreed to organise a visit

In short term Masons will work on 1 room

Feasibility Study to be prepared. Need to set up a Steering Group which could consist of Community Council memebtrs, RCT Board and other groups in village

2020 is the Centenary so aiming to have all works completed by then

There is a stage in the hall at the moment