

Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting on 18th March 2020. Held in the Garrett Room, Memorial Hall Cavendish.

Attendees:

Cllrs Halliday, Craig and Williamott - Finance Committee members; C R Turner - Clerk/RFO

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what the Council could do to help the village, following the Coronavirus epidemic restrictions etc. As the remaining Councillors were either over 70 or suffering from health problems, the agenda also covered other matters than finance. The meeting was set up urgently with no time to advise parishioners, and it was also felt advisable to keep attendance to a minimum and sit well away from each other.

The Chair has had a meeting with 2 parishioners involved with the Community shop, following the closure due to self imposed isolation of the manager. She also dealt with the finances etc. which meant that the funds of the shop were not available. The Chair advised us that the shop was re-opening the following day but to protect the work force everyone would be served from the doorway and Cllr Halliday had purchased a few small items to enable this to be achieved. District Councillor Jim Meikle has provided much needed funds from his locality budget of £300 but more was required and it was agreed that we would match this sum from our reserves, by way of a grant/loan. A cheque was written out for this sum to be handed to the requisite person the following day.

The shop is to open daily from 9 to 11 am. People need to be advised of the situation and we were provided with a copy of a proposed “flyer” to be delivered to each household. This is to be sent from the Parish Council. A number of suggestions were made as to the wording etc. The Chair is to amend the “flyer” accordingly and it will then be printed via West Suffolk Council. Once received it will be distributed by volunteers who have come forward.

We have been informed by Victoria Tolchard, chair of the Village Magazine, that the magazine is to issue a copy to each household whether subscribers or not, it will cover Covid-19 with details of action that should be taken to avoid being taken ill. The cost of the printing of some 400 magazines will be in excess of £600. Mary Evans, County Councillor does have funds in her locality budget and we are to approach her for £500. Claim form submitted by Chair subsequent to the meeting.

We had hoped to discuss the Car Park renovation but are still awaiting a quote from David Sears which will be based on the same specifications of the other quotes.

We are unsure whether Pre-school group would continue to run, which may affect our income. (This was prior to the notification that schools were to be closed because of the virus outbreak, they do have children attending whose parents are “key workers”).

Work on the porch of the Memorial Hall was required. We have been in touch with Sean Curran who will paint the outside, his fee is under £500 so we agreed he can go ahead. (Subsequently he has found that some wood is rotten and will need replacement, he will send two invoices one for the repairs and one for the redecoration).

Chris Turner-Clerk