

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FARRINGDON VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE TRUST (Charity No: 301824) HELD AT THE GOLDEN PHEASANT, GOSPORT ROAD, FARRINGDON, GU34 3DJ, ON WEDNESDAY 4 JANUARY 2017, COMMENCING AT 7.00PM**

**Present: Mr C Elderton in the Chair, Ms A de Ledesma, Messrs A Batley, H Bevan, P Durrant, D Horton and D Williams. Also present: three members of the public and Mrs Sue Hobbs, Locum Clerk to Farringdon Parish Council.**

**1. Chair's Welcome and Introduction.**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and commented that it had been almost a year since the Trust last met on 10 February 2016. However, there had been a great deal of activity and the purpose of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), was to demonstrate that the Trust was being properly run and to provide a clear understanding of the how the Trust is meeting its objectives.

**2. To appoint the Chair for 2017 – 2018.**

The Chair explained that it was usual practice for the Chair of Farringdon Parish Council, to act as Chair to the Farringdon Village Hall Charitable Trust (FVHCT), although he was willing to step aside if another nominee came forward. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of returning Mr Elderton as Chair to the FVHCT, who accepted.

**3. Appointment of Trust Officers:**

- (i) To appoint the Vice-Chair for 2017 – 2018.** A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of Mr A Batley serving as Vice-Chair to the FVHCT, who accepted.
- (ii) To appoint the Secretary for 2017 – 2018.** The Chair explained that the Clerk to Farringdon Parish Council was usually appointed as Secretary in an ex-officio capacity. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of the Clerk being appointed as Secretary to the FVHCT.
- (iii) To appoint the Treasurer for 2017 – 2018.** A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of Mr D Horton being appointed as Treasurer to the FVHCT, who accepted.

**4. To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 February 2016.**

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of accepting the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 February 2016, as a true record of the meeting. Mr Durrant advised that a 'zero risk' must apply to Trust funds, but that building societies will not accept trust fund accounts. It was for this

reason that the FHHCT funds must remain invested in the account currently used.

Farringdon Parish Council has agreed to increase the remuneration for the Parish Clerk to undertake the function of the FVHCT Secretary. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of continuing this arrangement.

#### **5. To receive and approve the Financial Statement.**

Mr Horton provided the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2016 and it was noted that the heading of the document had been altered from the Farringdon Village Hall Management Committee to the FVHCT. It was highlighted that the social club funds were to be kept separately and that expenditure to the value of £204.60 had been incurred, to pay for an arboricultural visit, printing costs and the hire of the Golden Pheasant.

The statement also did not include the £25,000.00 funds received in respect of the solar farm, nor the ear marked reserves from Farringdon Parish Council. This is a precautionary measure, as if the new Village Hall does not materialise for any reason, funds could be allocated to another project by the Charity Commission.

Discussion followed regarding the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), which currently compensates investors up to a limit of £75,000.00, should a bank become bankrupt and which could pose a risk for the FVHCT.

The FVHCT balance held at 31 December 2016 was subsequently confirmed as being £368,901.04, of which £365,414.00 represented the proceeds from the sale of Massey's Folly.

#### **6. To appoint the Honorary Auditor.**

The Chair commented that the current incumbent Mr D Hartley, may not wish to continue in this role and a suggestion was received that an approach be made to Mr Hartley to ask if he was willing to undertake this function in his company role or to make a more formal arrangement. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of the Chair making enquiries with Mr Hartley.

#### **7. Report to the Charity Commission.**

Mr Horton confirmed that he would make the annual submission to the Charity Commission online, as soon as practicable after the year end on 31 March 2017. A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of sending a letter to the Charity Commission to advise of the change of name to the FVHCT for bank purposes.

## **8. To report progress with the plan to deliver a new village hall and agree further actions.**

Mr Durrant reported on the outcomes of the three public meetings held at the Golden Pheasant in November 2016. Individual landowners had been approached regarding potential sites for the new village hall. A contract had been let for a full ground survey of the churchyard which was an essential precursor to a full arboricultural survey without which the feasibility of the churchyard option could not be assessed. It was assessed this work would be completed by mid to late March. Although the churchyard site is probably the most favoured location for a new hall, like all other potential sites, it is not without significant planning and building challenges. The aim of the project team was to have gathered all the necessary information necessary to down select which option to pursue by late April 2017.

## **9. Any other business.**

An enquiry was received regarding the progress of a plan for Massey's Folly, as the building has deteriorated over the past two years. A response was received that residents would be informed as soon as further information became available.

It was highlighted that more residents had expressed their willingness to help with the new village hall project, which was warmly welcomed.

## **10. Key messages.**

The following appointments were made:

- Chairman - Clive Elderton
- Vice Chairman - Tony Batley
- Treasurer - David Horton
- Secretary - Parish Clerk ex-officio

It was confirmed that the Charitable Trust currently had a credit balance of £368,901.04 of which £365,414.00 was the proceeds from the sale of Massey's Folly. It was agreed the account name be changed from the Farringdon Village Hall Management Committee, which had been disbanded, to the Farringdon Village Hall Charitable Trust (No. 301824) (FVHCT).

It was agreed that Farringdon Social Group funds be extracted from the FVHCT and held under separate governance arrangements in their own account.

A brief update was given on progress towards to re-providing a village hall facility.

**11. Date of next meeting.**

A proposal was received, seconded and voted in favour of the next FVHCT AGM being held on Wednesday 3 January 2017 at the Golden Pheasant at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.