

Grosmont Futures – Minutes of Meeting 13/01/2021 7.00 – 8.30pm by Microsoft Teams

Present:

Peter Willis (PW) Rural Futures
Lynne Potter (LP)
Jane Moggridge (JM)
Oliver Huntsman (OH)
Jan Chatfield (JC)

Mark Whitaker (MW)
Jo Whitaker (JW)
Deb Nevill (DN)
Alex Minford (AM)
Witek Mintowt-Czyz (WMC)

Apologies:

Lucy Gable, Jude Rogers

Minutes of previous meeting:

Matters Arising - N/A first meeting

Correspondence:

Nothing received.

AGENDA

1. Purpose and scope of meeting

PW welcomed those present and explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to ratify the Grosmont Futures (GF) Constitution and elect the GF foundation committee.

PW noted that as stated in the GF Constitution the Foundation Committee will be temporary, in place until the first Annual General Meeting. As identified previously the top priority for GF is the renovation of Grosmont Town Hall to make it fit for purpose as a central hub and facility providing the focus for many existing and potential community activities. There is an opportunity to apply for a National Lottery Grant of up to £140,000 for this project, available until the end of 2021 and it is unlikely that any other projects will be undertaken by GF in this timeframe. The Town Hall is owned by Grosmont Fawr Community Council (GCC) so the Town Hall Renovation Project (THR) and grant application will need to be undertaken in collaboration with GCC. The draft framework outlining the relationship between GF and GCC will be discussed later in the agenda.

OH asked why GCC are not doing the renovation themselves, WMC replied that whilst GCC are happy for GF to pursue this on their behalf and would be supportive of the process, they would be unlikely to provide any effective input. GCC had put in a bid to the National Lottery previously in 2016, but this was unsuccessful at stage one, possibly because the application was focused on the fabric of the building rather than the needs of the community.

AM raised a concern as to the degree of involvement and engagement by the wider village community in the THR project, as evidenced by the poor attendance at this meeting. PW has evidence of the work done so far in identifying priorities for improvement as part of the Rural

Futures project, but it is agreed that demonstrating the engagement of the wider community must be a priority going forward. JC noted that once there was something tangible and practical in place, it would be easier for people to be involved.

OH raised a serious concern regarding the difficulty in completing the application within the 12-month timeframe, noting that there was a good deal of work to be done such as feasibility studies, drawing up plans, planning permission, building quotes etc. all exacerbated by having to work in partnership with GCC who only meet bi-monthly. The general feeling of those present was that if we don't try, we certainly won't be successful anyway, so we have nothing to lose apart from our time.

2. Agree constitution and elect provisional officers for Grosmont Futures Foundation Committee - Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

PW asked if those present were happy to stand for the GF Foundation Committee, most people agreed to stand. Although JM stated that whilst she was happy to help, especially with the Website, she did not want to commit to being part of the committee at this time.

AM also initially stated he did not want to be part of the committee but changed his mind later.

The GF Foundation Committee will therefore be comprised of Lynne Potter, Mark Whitaker, Jo Whitaker, Oliver Huntsman, Alex Minford, Deb Nevill, Jan Chatfield & Witek Mintowt-Czyz.

The committee elected the following officers

Joint Chair: Lynne Potter and Mark Whitaker

Treasurer: Oliver Huntsman

Joint Secretary: Deb Nevill and Jan Chatfield

DN proposed that the GF Constitution be adopted, this was seconded by OH and passed by the committee.

It was agreed that in view of the COVID-19 restrictions electronic sign-off of the constitution by the members of the committee would be appropriate.

3. Brief reminder of Rural Futures funding expectations, examples of rural poverty and overview of project stages

PW briefly ran through the Rural Futures project with reference to documents available electronically on Padlet.

- Lottery Funding of up to £140,000 has been ring fenced for use on suitable improvements in Grosmont as part of the Rural Futures/Rural Poverty project.
- Timescale for application is the end of 2021.

- The funder requires suitable projects to be community led and informed to address issues associated with Rural Poverty.

The project is currently at stages 1&2. It is crucial going forward that we are clear on what we are trying to achieve, not just improvements to the fabric of the building, but understanding what would make the Town Hall fit for purpose and appropriate for the needs of the community so that this can be central to the grant application.

PW reviewed previous Rural Futures projects that had been shown to address rural poverty, again with reference to documents on Padlet.

4. Framework- How Grosmont Futures and Grosmont community Council will work together

The draft framework document had been circulated prior to the meeting. OH proposed that this be agreed as a working document, this was seconded by AM and agreed by the committee.

A letter will be drafted by AM requesting that GCC consider the framework document at their next meeting. This will be circulated to the committee for approval, signed by LP & MW and sent to GCC prior to their meeting.

WMC will confirm the date of the next GCC meeting ASAP.

**Action: AM to write letter
WMC to confirm date**

5. Funding/Finance

There was some discussion as to whether GF should have a bank account.

JC noted that for GF to be a credible organisation it should have a bank account.

It was noted that GF does not currently have an income stream, but there will be costs involved going forward. PW to investigate possible alternative sources of local funding for GF.

JC asked whether the £750 microgrant (that had been sourced to enable the Community Event planned for March 2020 but cancelled due to COVID) could be used in the initial planning stages. PW considered that this could probably be used to assess community engagement, but this would need to be confirmed by the funding officer.

WMC stated that he would ask GCC to include funding for progressing the stage one grant in their precept for 2021 but would need an indication of the amount to be requested.

PW noted that Stage One Lottery funding could be applied for to cover planning, designs surveys etc. PW to meet with funding officer to discuss possibility of stage one / pre-application grant.

Action: PW to meet Funding Officer

6. Next steps

An announcement will be made to inform the wider community that GF has set up an agreement with GCC to initiate the THR project and would welcome the views and engagement from individuals across the community to ensure it meets their needs. PW will write the statement which will be distributed as follows; electronically on Grosmont Village Website and FaceBook pages, Church Link, and hard copy on the village noticeboard.

Action: PW to write Statement

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th January 7.00pm on Microsoft Teams. Please send agenda items to JC/DN in advance of the meeting.

Action: PW to convene meeting

All to familiarise with documents on Padlet

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm