

## Update on the Flaxton Village Hall

As you know the hall is in a very bad state of repair and it is only due to some urgent and regular maintenance by members of the Village (especially Tony Sawyer) that it has been possible to keep it open and available for use up to now.

It has been the wish of the Village Hall Committee for many years that we should try to demolish and replace it if at all possible.

When the old school was sold a few years ago the Trustees of both Charities, namely the Flaxton Village Institute and the Flaxton Old School Trust, hoped they could be merged and the assets of both be used to help finance a build.

However, it was identified that the Charitable Objects of both were slightly different so after FOST taking legal advice it was decided the best way forward would be to create a new Charity with the specific aim of providing, running and maintaining a Village Hall for the use of the inhabitants of Flaxton and the surrounding areas.

The creation of the Charity was put into the hands of the Solicitors who have finally completed, after a very protracted period, it's creation.

With the new Charity (Flaxton Community Hall) now registered the task of merging the original two Charities with the new one with the Charity Commission can take place, unfortunately there has been a further delay in transferring the assets as Covid restrictions in the banking industry have meant a Bank Account for the new Charity could not be created. Thankfully restrictions have now been lifted and we are able to proceed with opening the new account.

The Trustees of the new Charity are.

Mark O'Brien, (Chair), Adrian Lawrence (Treasurer), Jeff Jordan (Secretary), Gill Stilwell, Jill Fagan, Wendy Holman, Judy Pearson, Charles Lewin, Chris Irish, Anne-Marie Mook, Ida Terry

The next stages planned are.....

Firstly, Clive Guyer (of Prospect House) a Partner in a London based firm of Architects has (voluntarily) been working up a number of schemes/suggestions and is currently creating a few that the Trustees will be putting to the Villagers for comments, of course how this can be done with the current Covid restrictions has still to be determined.

Secondly, (and most importantly) the total amount of cash currently available for the build cannot be confirmed until FOST receives the final legal bill, but even so it will not be sufficient to carry out the build without further funds being available.

Trustees are therefore looking for a willing volunteer (or volunteers) who are able to offer time to research the Internet to find where grants may be available, and of course take the research further and make the appropriate applications on behalf of the village.

Finally, in order to keep the costs to a minimum it has been suggested that a "self build" project, probably using a cladded steel frame construction could be a possibility. The Trustees would be looking for comments on this suggestion, and especially from those who would be willing to help with, or offer advice on, any aspects of the build project e.g. groundworks, foundations, services, joinery, plumbing, electrical, decorations, etc, etc.

If you can help out please let any of the Trustees know so we can create a team and bring a much needed, and usable, asset back to our Village.

Many thanks

Trustees of Flaxton Community Hall

13th Oct 2020