



St Andrews Parish Council

Minutes of the Redhouse Community Centre Committee Meeting held
on Wednesday 16th June 2021 at 7pm
at Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon

Councillors Present: Kola Beyioku, Beverly Elmer (in attendance), Ben Fenton, Mary Friend,
Paul Morris (Chairman), Vera Tomlinson and Vince Williams
Officer Present: Emma Sylvester and Centre Manager
Public Present: 0

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN RESOLVED

To elect Ben Fenton as Vice-Chairman to Redhouse Community Centre committee.

4. PUBLIC RECESS

No public

5. MINUTES RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 18th November 2020 and 19th May 2021 are approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. OVERVIEW OF CENTRE USAGE

- (i) Cllr Tomlinson gave a brief history of Redhouse Community Centre (RCC) explaining how several years ago residents expressed a need and how as a Borough Councillor with Cllr Mary Friend the money was raised to have the centre built. She added that the centre was temporarily meant to be used as a school before being run by Blunsdon St Andrews Parish Council for as a community centre. When Blunsdon St Andrews Parish Council split, the community centre came under the responsibility of St Andrews Parish Council.

Cllr Tomlinson explained that during lockdown RCC had had to close but now that lockdown restrictions were being lifted the Centre manager was doing a tremendous job ensuring the centre is booked up again.

- (ii) The Centre Manager tabled a timetable of current bookings stating that most regular hirers were now back using the hall along with a few new customers. The Centre Manager explained that the recent delay in lifting of restrictions had meant cancelling children's parties at a cost of approximately £1K in booking income.

Members discussed the parish council using the main hall for meetings and Cllr Tomlinson reported that the local MP had offered use of his meeting room at the orbital.

The committee congratulated the Centre Manager for the hard work in reopening RCC.

- (iii) Members received 2020/21 accounts along with April and May of the new financial year as attached in the Minute book. The Clerk explained that due to grants received from the Government the year had ended with a £400 loss and at the end of May 2021 there was over £10k profit due to a covid start up grant.

The Centre Manager reported that there was still £10k waiting to be transferred over from the charity that previously ran the centre and requested that this was spent on improvements to the centre. The Centre Manager outlined issues in the centre with noise complaints from neighbouring properties when the weather was hot and there was a need to open the doors. Members were also brief on the sound limiter installed in the centre which automatically cuts off the electrics should the sound go beyond a certain level. After discussions it was agreed for the Centre Manager to obtain quotes for air conditioning and sound proofing.

The Centre Manager raised the problem of storage along with the cramped office space. Members discussed the possibility of a front extension again and agreed to add this to the next meeting's agenda. The Centre Manager to bring quotes back to the next meeting.

Cllr Williams raised the issue of utility costs rising if the parish office and grounds maintenance department move to a new location and requested full costs to be brought to the next meeting.

- (iv) The Clerk reported that at the last Full Council meeting responses were agreed to queries from the parish council's solicitor. The Clerk reminded members that before lockdown there were discussions with Swindon Borough Council about having the extension plans to the centre added to the lease. Members agreed to request again that plans are included within the lease.

7. MAINTENANCE

The Centre Manager tabled quotes to change utility supplier.

RESOLVED

To change to British Gas 3-year fixed contract.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____