

Interim Emergency Meeting of Bellerby Parish Council held in Hall Garth on

Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.30pm

This meeting was called at short notice to update Councillors of the developments on the offer of the lease for the Cross Keys Bellerby, and determine a way forward.

The meeting was attended by Councillors Hutchinson, Rycroft, Travell and Scriven.

Procedural Matters

1. Apologies for absence

The Clerk sent her apologies.

2. "To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting

Not Applicable

4. Public questions, comments or representations (limited to 10 minutes)

None.

Business Matters

One item only on the agenda –

The Parish Council's position and actions, on the offer of the lease of the Cross Keys Public House to a Community Group.

The Chairman updated fellow Councillors on the recent correspondence and telephone calls from the property landlord of the 'Cross Keys', and village group representatives suggesting that a Community organisation be formed to take over the lease of the public house.

Briefly

- i) The freehold owner has attended the premises today and changed the locks on the building, while also cancelling the lease to the estate of the previous licensee, by virtue of non-payment of rent.
- ii) Howard Fricker has entered into an agreement with the Landlord to open and run the premises in the short-term; the building is expected to re-open early in June 2016.
- iii) The landlord's preferred option is to lease the property to a 'Community Group' to run as a business.
- iv) If this is agreeable, he will gift the fixtures and fittings (purchased from the previous landlord's estate for a sum of £6,500) to the village.
- v) Any tenancy would be subject to the negotiation of a new lease and terms with the landlord.

There followed a lengthy discussion regarding the practicalities of the situation, the lack of financial information available, the financial viability of the business, rumours circulating within the village, condition of the building, the implications of the lease currently being rent and repair, and whether the Parish Council has the time, resources or authority to proceed on behalf of the Community.

The following actions were decided

- It was decided to consult the wider community on their opinion as to whether they wished the Parish Council to explore the possibility of a Community pub.
- The Council also determined on the levels of response required from any consultation to give a comfortable mandate to work the project up further.

These levels being decided as a return of at least 60% of the electoral roll, with a 60% majority of the return being in favour of proceeding with the project.

- It was decided that an update and questionnaire be prepared and circulated as a draft document to all councillors.
- Once a draft form of document and phrasing had been agreed, it would be posted to everyone on the electoral roll.
- The vote would be held open for returns for a minimum of two weeks, enabling anyone on holiday to have an opportunity to respond.
- This document to be prepared and delivered as soon as practical.
- Only on a positive mandate from the wider community, would the Parish Council proceed further to investigate the possibility, financial and wider implications, funding opportunities and form of a Community Interest company, to take over the business.

5. Date of the next meeting: 16th May 2016 Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting

The meeting closed at 8:25