



Minutes of Members Meeting

Held at the Village Hall
At 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th November 2014

In attendance and apologies

In attendance were Geoff Martin, acting chairman, Mike Johnson, John Knight, Richard Hulme, John Kerlake, and 20 members.

Apologies were received from Peter Sidebottom who was making a compassionate visit.

1. Minutes of the Members General Meeting held on 14th November 2013

These were taken as read and approved.

2. Review of the year

Mike Johnson reminded the meeting of the very successful visit of HRH Prince Charles on 25th November 2013.

A permanent panel has been placed in the PO foyer listing all those who so generously supported SOSCIC in its development stage.

All units have been fully tenanted and, although there is an impending change, continuing full tenancy is expected.

Christine Massey continues as cleaner but Roger Whitehouse has retired and the caretaker duties are now being taken by Bob Broadway.

Access issues continue to cause concern. The Post Office continues to instruct all delivery drivers to use the rear access but the wall in the entrance way has again been damaged and it is inevitable that some deliveries will have to be made at the front.

The Village Hall is developing plans to improve their building and, if approved, we will be working with them to minimise any disruption of access and parking while any changes take place.

Shear Class are being pressed to improve their signage. They have been in contact with Wiltshire Council and we will be having further dialogue with them.

3. Finance report

Geoff Martin showed a summary of the statutory accounts to 31st March 2014 and of the cash position to date, its comparison with budget and the budget expectation for the full year. He indicated that this was perhaps the first of a more normal sequence of years where donations cease to be a major source of income and we will be reliant on rents.

Progress in building reserves is being made and SOSCIC's priority remains, as explained a year ago, that of providing money to the Parish Council to enable them, if they wish, to pay down their borrowings as soon as possible.

4. Questions

There were several questions about the scale of the cash reserves being built and the desirability of passing these to the village sooner rather than later. One questioner suggested that the priority should not be repayment of the Parish Council loan because this

is a 50 year 'mortgage' entered into willingly. He suggested that perhaps a separate committee should be established to advise SOSCIC on distribution of available surpluses. Another questioner suggested a formula for the scale of contingency reserves and encouraged SOSCIC to begin to give money back to the community whenever possible. Geoff Martin agreed that the board of SOSCIC would consider all of these points in due course.

Other questions related to the desirability of protecting the pedestrian areas at the front of the premises and of providing 'disabled parking' space. Mike Johnson said he would write to Wiltshire Council on these points.

5. Chairman's closing remarks

The acting chairman thanked all members for coming to the meeting and for their continuing encouragement and support.

Geoff Martin
Acting Chairman