



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY 12TH MARCH 2025

- 1. Present:** Councillors: T. Walton (Chair); A. Barton; R. Bean; J. Clifford; R. Davies; D. Dorey; I. Johnston; S. Roche; D Wright; M. Tye; B. Walton

Cllr D. Walters; Mrs Carey (Clerk) Ms H. Barbrook (Assistant Clerk)

- 2. Apologies** Cllrs R. Bolton ; R. Haslett ; N. Ingledew; H. Parker ;
The apologies were accepted.

- 3. Absent:** Nil

- 4. Public Question Time;** There were seven members of the public present.

Mr. Rob Perks Trustee of the Rudloe Community Association (RCA) and Corsham Baptist Church (CBC) stated this was a massive opportunity to bring the Rudloe Community Centre back into use with services such as a foodbank and café which would be non-chargeable and would be run using the model currently used in Corsham. These will start as soon as the Centre reopens. These would be financially underwritten for five years in line with the Lease from Wiltshire Council which would be for seven years with a five year break clause.

Mr Steve Abbott, Trustee of the RCA and a Corsham Town Councillor stated that the Centre has the potential to be used by the people of Rudloe and Corsham. The Corsham Baptist Church carry out valuable work in Corsham such as Souper Friday for the elderly and a toddler group and are the mainstay of Corsham's Health and Well Being Agenda.

- 5. Chairman's announcements and declarations of interest:** Cllr Dorey declared an interest as a Trustee of the RCA

The Chair stated that the purpose of the meeting was to look at the Grant Application made by the RCA for £17500 towards the Rudloe Community Centre. The Council had requested supporting documents for this grant application and these had been circulated and questions should be restricted to these.

There would be no discussion on the S106 money as this was irrelevant to today's meeting and could be raised at a future meeting.

- 6. To discuss the request for funding and finance support to the Rudloe Community Centre**

Cllr Tye stated that she had had questions but the supporting documents had provided the answers on how the grant would be spent.

Cllr B. Walton stated that there should be trust between the Parish Councillors and the RCA and where the money comes from should not be an issue.

Cllr Davies reminded the Council that Wiltshire Council had not supported the Rudloe Community Centre since it shut in 2017. There are now two new housing estates within walking distance of the Centre which will increase the number of people using the facility.

Cllr Johnston stated that GreenSquare had not carried out any works whilst it leased the building, which is why the money was now needed for the repairs.

There is a Project Manager in place - the CV was provided to Councillors to show her experience

The Chair thanked Cllr Dorey and the whole team for delivering all of the documents to support the application.

It was **proposed** by Cllr T. Walton and seconded by Cllr M. Tye that the Parish Council supports the grant application from the RCA in the sum of £17500

This was carried by nine votes in favour and two abstentions.

Cllr Bean requested that there is further discussion on the S106 monies at a future Council meeting.

Mr Steve Abbott reported that the RCA was still in discussions with Wiltshire Council re peppercorn rent but it was hoped that this would be finalised by the end of March with the opening of the Centre planned for July

Cllr Derek Walters thanked the Council for their support to the Rudloe Community

The Chair reported that the Council was considering further funding for the Rudloe Area including the Leafy Lane football pitch and the playing areas.

Thanks were expressed to the RCA and for the confidence in the Corsham Baptist Church to deliver services to the community.

Chair

Meeting closed at 2.05 pm