

TROWSE WITH NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes to Public Meeting on Monday 8th December, Manor Rooms, Trowse

Those present from the Council, Pat Brickley, Tim Hall, Martin Kentish, Liesa Prewer, Betty Stringer, Cindy Eves

Chair: Trevor Lewis from South Norfolk Council

Summary

The meeting was very well attended: the hall was full with a very good cross section of the villagers being present.

The result of the meeting was:

- To bring the views of the MRC and PC together so both parties can move forward
- Support for the release the £25k as a stepping-stone to providing better community facilities.
- Demonstrate a division within the PC regarding approach to the development

Background

A significant amount of work had been undertaken to survey the entire village with the objective of:

- Introducing the various council members to people of the village
- Promote the council as a pro-active and engaging council that works on behalf of the villagers, for the villagers
- Encouraging people to attend the public meeting

The objective of the meeting was to summarise the findings of the surveying and information to be presented to the villagers by the Parish Council and Management room committee.

Agenda

1. Welcome & introductions by Trevor Lewis
2. Background for the reasons for the redevelopment. Pat Brickley
3. Why did Parish Council survey the village? Tim Hall
4. Summary of what the community said, 1999 and Dec 2003. Martin Kentish
5. The various options. Colin Steward, Tim Hall, Cindy Eves
6. The most important part: your questions and views to the councillors

Notes

In addition to the included presentation the following notes were taken:

- Betty Stringer stated that the views being expressed by Cllr Hall and Cllr Kentish did not represent the views of the who Parish Council
- Betty Brown presented a balanced, staged approach to the development of the Manor Rooms that was received well by the villagers.
- Richard Cox asked the question "If villagers said they did not want the building but would prefer something else, would MRC go with the wishes?" Colin said no as they are an independent charity set up to run the Manor Rooms.
- A villager raised the issue of a growing community couldn't be served by such a small building
- Betty Stringer expressed the view that a new build would be a white elephant. Another villagers raised the issue of costs would make it prohibitive.
- The Councillors were thanked by the villagers for the work they are doing on behalf of the community.
- Cllr Hall emphasised the view of being open, supportive of the Manor Rooms if they represent the views of the community.
- The need for better marketing of existing facilities came up a number of times
- The PC emphasised the view that it is was the council's role to respond to what the community needs, and a major part of this is being open and encouraging more people to say.
- Better marketing and communication was suggested to encourage more use of what is already in the village
- There was a publicly observed hostility and it was clear the MRC and PC were passionate about the issues raised. This highlighted a breakdown in communication or misunderstanding between the two groups, not a difference in views.
- There was a clear difference in approach and attitude between all present councillors and Betty Stringer.
- After the four options were presented to those present and a vote was taken.
 - Do nothing **0 votes**
 - Release £25k for renovation work, not spend the full proposal and in parallel explore the feasibility of using existing facilities better and a new village hall. **28 votes**
 - Spend the full proposed amount on renovation work and support Management Room Committee proposals **11 votes**
 - Commit all effort in to new community facility and no nothing with the Manor Rooms, **6 votes**
- These results were welcomed by all, demonstrating how the PC and MRC can and want to work together and the PC will offer the full support if the plans are true to what the community really wants.

Summary

- The MRC and PC were left with a clear feeling they can and will work together.
- The public support the idea of releasing the Hopkins money for the 'superficial' renovation of the Manor Rooms as a stepping-stone to better community facilities.