

Notes of Meeting of Forest Row Community Shed Steering Committee

Friday July 19th 2024

Present: Lili Barcroft (LB) Henry Howlett (HH), Tony Lewin (TL), Helen Munro (HM)

1. Apologies

1.1 Fleur Britten, Nic Pople, Patricia Patterson-Vanegas, Alex Waters

2. Notes of last meeting

2.1 The notes of the meeting held on May 3rd were accepted

3. New members and project update

3.1 Lili Barcroft was introduced to the Committee and TL updated the group with the project to date. The decision of the Parish Council to lease Hambro Hall to On My Side was noted.

4 The Cube

4.1 TL advised that the Parish Council was very supportive of the project and had made the following offer for the Shed to use the Cube, to be vacated shortly by On My Side

* peppercorn rent for 12 months

* A member of the Parish Council staff (Amanda) to investigate possible funding sources

4.2 The intention is that the project uses the time to develop its membership, find its feet and after a year be in a position to decide whether to continue in the Cube and pay rent, raise the funds for a purpose built Shed or if the project is not viable.

4.3 The Project will initially continue to be run under the aegis of the Parish Council and will use the time to set up formally as a CIO, apply to for charitable status and set up a bank account. The project has c£2k as a start-up fund.

4.4 FrowResource has offered £1k towards any rent chargeable after the year.

4.5 TL explained that the Cube has a disabled access, disabled toilet, electric radiators, benches for machines and a suitable floor.

4.6 The date for the lease to start is dependent on the date On My Side vacate the premises. This is dependent on work it is having done to update Hambro Hall. On My Side is supportive of the Project and there is scope to work together.

4.7 The following was agreed

*** to accept with thanks the offer of a peppercorn rent for a year from the Parish Council and offer to investigate funding sources. TL to advise Parish Council.**

*** TL to arrange a date for Committee members to visit The Cube (weekend suggested)**

*** to investigate the next steps to becoming a formal CIO and charity. HM to seek advise from Charlotte at FRowResource who it is understood have progressed their application**

***LB to consider if she wishes to become a Trustee of the project.**

5 Offer of Tools for the Shed

5.1 TL advised that Alexandra, Manager at Second Life, had offered a significant number of tools held by her father in South London. These would need to be transported to Forest Row and possible additional storage space may be required.

5.2 Other possible sources for tools were the Groombridge Shed and a contact of TL in Crowborough

5.3 It was agreed that TL would arrange a site visit to South London to make an inventory of usable tools and discuss with Alexandra's father an arrangement he would be comfortable with. HH was happy to accompany TL and use his expertise to assess the tools.

6 Initial Steps for Project

6.1 TL advised that Amanda at the Parish Council had suggested her father was willing to help train us in how to use a lathe and he knew a wood turner who may also be willing to help

6.2 It was agreed that an Open Day/Taster sessions in the Cube would be a good way to kick start the project and gain traction with membership and volunteers. This will need to be organised when we have a better idea of the start date of the lease, availability and installation of tools.

7 Vision for Project

7.1 Our overall vision was agreed as getting the Cube up and running and then moving to a new purpose built Shed. The estimated new build costs are C£200k.

7.2 It was agreed that LB would prepare a draft summary for our next meeting to set out our vision, what we would like to happen and the roles that will need to be filled to achieve this.

8 Shed Name

8.1 This was discussed and considered an important decision that the whole Committee needed to have input and agree on. It will need to be agreed by the Parish Council.

8.2 It was agreed to discuss this at our next meeting

9 Next Meeting

9.1 It was agreed that this would be held in the Cube and TL would agree some dates to suggest with the Manager of the Cube.