

NOTES OF MEETING OF COUNCILLORS REGARDING SCALBY PARISH HALL

Meeting held on Wednesday 1 October 2008
Commencing at 7 pm.

In Attendance:

Councillor R I Thompson (Chairman in the Chair)

Councillors: D J Bastiman, S G Foote, R I Thompson & B F Watson
M McGuinn, Clerk & RFO

1/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from Councillors B Miller, C Ridley & P C Snow

2/08 SCALBY PARISH HALL

2.1/08 Prior to the meeting the clerk circulated correspondence from the Charities Commission dated 8 April 2005 & 22 August 2008 together with a copy of a letter from the Clerk to the Charities Commission dated 6 August 2008. These letters were **RECEIVED**.

2.2/08 An update from Councillor Bastiman and the Clerk on the advice received from YLCA, their subsequent contact with the Charities Commission and Scarborough Borough Council Officers and the outcome thereof was **RECEIVED**.

3/08 DISCUSSION

3.1/08 A wide ranging discussion took place ranging from the legal implications through to the financial implications and day to day operational issues and possible new income streams.

3.2/08 It was unanimously agreed that the efforts of Councillor Bastiman and the Clerk to date had delivered extremely interesting and welcome news, especially that from the Charities Commission which places the Parish Council in a strong position to take matters forward in a positive way. Councillors thanked them for their efforts.

4/08 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1/08 It was agreed that the sale of the cottage, even in the current market conditions, should provide sufficient funds to make it a viable proposition to consider taking this matter forward and could realise circa £200K.

- 4.2/08 However caution was urged to make sure that independent advice was sought to establish a true and independent dilapidation schedule and the associated costs to put the hall back into good repair. In the past all such information had been produced by SBC who have a vested interest in this matter. It was recommended that Simon Ward be approached by the clerk to establish his likely fees for such work and approval be sought from Council to make this expenditure which is a justified cost in order to protect the best interests of parishioners.
- 4.3/08 Various ideas were mooted as to how revenue could be developed from the car park etc and it was agreed that this detail would need to be examined in more depth at a later stage of the process.
- 4.4/08 It was recognised that there will be a cost in manpower which is unavoidable if the matter is to be handled professionally, thoroughly and in order to deliver the end right result. It was agreed that the clerk would need additional support to enable him to take onboard this work and the current acting clerk, Tony Spencer, was available to provide cover for day to day matters and this was agreed as the best solution on the basis that he provide additional cover on an as and when needs basis.
- 4.5/08 The clerk advised Councillors that the parish council was in a good financial position to meet additional spending without the need to increase the parish precept, albeit it was recognised that the parish precept could be used, if necessary, in future years.

It was also recognised that the current land & Buildings Reserves could legally be utilised if required.

The clerk confirmed that he would prepare a precept budget report for the October council meeting and his recommendation would be that the precept remains unchanged for next year as there is sufficient leeway in the finances from previous one off expenditure items to adequately protect the council financially.

5/08 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1/08 All councillors present agreed that this was very welcome news and that the matter should be taken forward with a view to taking over the trust, provided the parish council's best interests are protected.
- 5.2/08 It was agreed to recommend the following to council for approval:
- A In principle the parish council agree to taking over the current Trust subject to a satisfactory outcome of negotiations with SBC and other third parties and subject to the final deal being agreed by council
- B That the costs of preparing a schedule of dilapidation and quantified repair/replacement costs be agreed and that the clerk instruct Simon Ward to carry out this work
- C That Councillor Bastiman and the Clerk be authorised to negotiate with SBC and all other third parties in order to progress this matter further with regular reports to council or where necessary to call a special meeting of council

D That the services of the acting clerk be agreed in order to provide cover for the clerk whilst pursuing parish hall matters

E That on any takeover of the current Trust there is a clean break regarding staff and that this parish council does not accept any transfer of staff (TUPE) and SBC will be required to fulfil their statutory obligations with regard to all staff currently employed by them.

**There being no other matters to discuss
the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm**

Chairman.