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Minutes of the Meeting of 7th May 2024 at 6.00pm

1 Welcome to the attendees, Chris Dew, Sarah Bunting, Harry Landless and particularly to Nigel Parkinson, attending on behalf of the Parish Council

2 Apologies: Our Secretary, Peter Burton, Leila (Junior tennis runs to 6.00pm so 6.15 start (at the Club?) would help & Gemma—stuck at work

3 Minutes of the Meetings of 27th February and 26th March approved as drafted.

4 New manager for Toll bar Cottage: report from Harry Landless:

The Cottage is operating from Tuesday to Friday, trading is good (almost too good!). Julie & Karen are in the kitchen with Lynn helping front of house—volunteers are the problem, particularly on Wednesday & Thursday. Harry is hoping that some of his own casual staff, based in Goosnargh, may be able to help for the occasional hours.

No new appointment as yet but there iOS a friend of Karen and 2 other possibles in the frame. Jennie is happy to review the advert: Sarah is to send her a copy and to liaise with Gemma to put an amended advert on Indeed.

5 Broughton & District Club & Padel Courts: everyone has been copied in and it would be helpful if one or more trustees could attend at 7.30 on 14th May Parish Council meeting to support Barry, the B&DC Secretary.

6 Report on the Website: Andrew asked if all Trustees could have a critical look at the site. Caroline and Andrew had changed the emphasis from Charity to Cafe on the basis of SELL rather than TELL of the history of the project.

Trustee reports:

a Andrew: proposed that a new Trustee be appointed nominated by B&DC—approved,

b Leila: would look into a contract for Karen (Peter may have one?). Exit interview with Jennie was very positive and handover notes were available for the new Manager. Still working on a new cleaner (Chris suggested putting her in touch with the Hoppers cleaners). Staff doing the cleaning as an add-on was a non-starter, according to Harry. Possible approach to Steve Rostron, the lengths man, who was local and might be interested.

c Chris:drop in turnover, 18k shortfall, business model of running the Cafe with a manager is basically flawed. Only way forward is to let to an owner tenant to open 7 days a week and do a lot of the grunt work him/her self to turn it into a profitable business. The parish Council might be happy to subsidise at £20k per annum bout would they be prepared at £40k? Nigel suggested a further Lottery Bid—this would need a different angle—not just more of the same. Andrew & Chris to do a paper for the Parish council pointing out the commercial realities of the Toll Bar Cottage Cafe operation.

d Harry: as above

e Gemma—liaising with Sarah on an advert and using Inside.

f Sarah: need to generate more volunteers—flyer needed for wide circulation targeting the Watermill and new housing. Leaflet could be combined with a general Cafe advert.

8 Initiatives: QR codes for Cafe menus with links to the website would be good—need to wait for the website to be finalised—Andrew to contact LogoMan!

9 Next Meeting: Tuesday 11th June at 6.15 (to allow for Junior Tennis Coaching overrun!)

NB Parish Council Meeting 7.30 0n 14th May to see how our application is received

| **Signed:** | **Date:** |
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