



**SAVE OLD SCHOOL:
Group Meeting in the Rose & Crown, Ivinghoe,
8th August 2011 at 8.00pm**

PRESENT:

Carol Tarrant	Anne Eastwood
Jane Custance	John Eastwood
Sandie Emerson	Moira Heggarty
John Wallis	Les Laing
Jeannette Wallis	Sue Nicholls
Martin McCormack	Tessa Smith
Lukas McCormack	Bob Corn

APOLOGIES: Alex and Owen Wynne
Emma Maier

The meeting had been called to further discuss proposals in connection with the Old School Building in the centre of Ivinghoe,

- 1.0 Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting, and gave a brief description of where things were – the keys to the building had been handed to Bucks County Council by Ivinghoe Parish Council, **our interest is formally noted, and there is now a space of time up until mid-October 2011** where interested parties are able to present a business plan and indicate proposed use to the County Council. Carol indicated that there were several documents to be examined in preparation for this business plan which she would hand around later in the meeting.
- 2.0 A list of **suggested activities for the Old School Building** were put forward at the recent village fete – these were read out and the theme of ‘Of the Community, By the Community, With the Community’ was emphasised. Carol also mentioned the support which she felt it was necessary to give to isolated folk within the Ivinghoe community – young parents of very young children, folk looking after ill or elderly relatives, etc.; Moira mentioned a couple of youngsters who were leaving Brookmead School and were wanting a ‘leavers’ party’. Interested businesses should be asked for ideas, and encouragement given to ideas with synergy – café, home economics, wedding receptions – community space for football and sports activities on the Lawn – a bunk barn, tourist information, walkers’ refuge.
- 3.0 Carol mentioned that Dr. Andrew Lord – a **local structural engineer** – had informally looked at the building, particularly two impressive cracks; he had suggested that the one nearer the Lawn was not a serious threat, provided that it be dealt with soon using reasonably economic methods of ‘stitching’ the bricks together horizontally. The second crack – adjacent to where the Post Office had recently been located – was a more serious crack, but Dr. Lord did not feel that the building was in immediate danger. He felt that the crack had been probably caused by a softening of the ground below the wall in question (perhaps by the installation of drains to new toilets) and that the back-fill of soil had not been compressed sufficiently well; he felt that the wall may have stopped moving by now, and suggested that ‘tell-tale’ ties be employed for say twelve months to

indicate any continuing movement vertically or rotationally. Les spoke of historical smithies, stabling and even caves in the area in the 1500's. It was suggested that Bucks County Council had never carried out a detailed structural survey, and the meeting felt that there may be a problem with insurances – and that it would be beneficial to obtain a 'signed off' structural survey.

- 4.0 The meeting noted that **Insurance** is an area which requires study for the future use of the building, Public Liability cover for any prior use before re-use should this be eventually formalised. Structural concerns need addressing in relation to insurance classification also. General Insurance figures were included in status quo costings reported by Carol earlier.
- 5.0 Noted that **Trusts, Deeds and Wills** need investigation – there has been some suggestion that a Countess Bridgewater willed the School Building to Ivinghoe in perpetuity. Documents were identified as being of interest – 'Beneath the Beacon', a local history group's publication; Les Laing's local history notes; the conveyance of 1906 which conveyed the School Building to Bucks County Council. Sandie took a copy of the relevant Land Registry document dated January 2011 to examine.
- 6.0 Carol spoke of possible lettings and other income; she also mentioned two pro-bono **lawyers** who have volunteered to advise and negotiate for SOS Group.
- 7.0 **Grant funding** was discussed, and a list of sources was handed to Sandie – though more avenues are included in the Corporate plan and some Lottery research...which always takes time...We need to bear in mind the final business plan submission date of 21st October 2011.
- 8.0 There are apparently three options for the Structure of the group, which we need to decide on before we apply for funding. **Charitable Trust, Social Enterprise Cooperative Model**. We should consider our constitution as part of the business plan:
- 9.0 **Evidence of need** in the village is required – Carol proposed a '**Village Event**' to bring the village together to provide these survey answers individually, as has now become CIB's recommended model procedure – although she is aware that a Public Liability Insurance would be required if we were to use the Old School. There is a possibility (but no more than that) that a County Councillor would be present, which might obviate the need for separate insurance – Councillors seeming to carry insurance with them in some way. After discussion, the meeting felt that **questionnaire** might be more efficient in obtaining quicker and better responses to obtain villagers' views of uses for the Old School Building.
- 10.0 Carol handed around updating papers from several folders to give an idea of where the project has so far arrived at – this might give a guide as to the formation of a questionnaire – and spoke of **favoured issues of 'minor local job creation', 'combating isolation' and 'learning more skills'** by local Government when communities or businesses are putting together a business plan; she can email most of the documents to anyone who requires them. Carol was happy that the last two areas had been our SOS sincere central focus from the start.

11.0 Les gave a **brief history of the Old School Building** – the building itself being built in about 1856; some discussion on suspected caves affecting the buildings subsidence occurred, Les noted that most of his history material has come from the Bucks County Record's Office, although he also recommended the Herts Record Office, also the records of Ashridge School. Lady Alford was mentioned, Carol suggesting that she could scan records and email them to Lukas, who had agreed to carry out research. Moira suggested asking villagers for information of their experiences in the Old School Building; she will take on the role of collecting the villagers' stories, these could form part of the history to the building to be contained in the business plan.

12.0 Jobs to do: **Questionnaire preparation** – Sandie Emerson
Research on Insurance – John Wallis
Collecting Signatures in Shops, Library, etc – Anne Eastwood, Carol Tarrant
Grants and Grant Applications – Jane Custance, Martin McCormack, John Wallis
Document Reading and Extracting Salient Points – Tessa Smith, Sue Nicholls, Martin McCormack, Jeannette Wallis
Archive Research and Note Taking – Moira Hegarty, Carol Tarrant, Lukas McCormack
Missing Wills – Lukas McCormack
Existing Building Registry – Sue Nicholls
120 page 'To Have and To Hold' – Sandie Emerson
7 point plan – Carol Tarrant to send to Tessa Smith
Soft Copy of Corporate Plans, etc – Carol Tarrant to send to Jane Custance and Sandie Emerson

13.0 An outline programme was discussed:

1st September 2011 – Questionnaire Issued
8th September 2011 – Questionnaire Returned
24th/25th September 2011 – Project presented to Village
21st October 2011 – Business Plan presented to County

Council

14.0 A philosophy behind the project was outlined:

'Save Old School – a Community led project to preserve the Old School Building in Ivinghoe for the benefit of Ivinghoe and the surrounding local Community'

15.0 **Next Meeting:** 15th August 2011 at 8.00pm, Rose & Crown, Ivinghoe

