

**Minutes of the meeting of the Lower Heyford Parish Council held on**

**14th March 2018 at 7.00 pm in the Church**

Present: - Mr Macnamara (JJ) (Chair), Mrs. Ball (DB) (Vice Chair) , Mr. Eggeling (BE) Mr. Thompson (LT), Mrs Daly (ED), Mr. Cox (CC)

In attendance: Cathy Fleet, Clerk

**03.18(2).01** Declarations of Interest : Mr. Eggeling and Mr. Thompson both declared an interest in the matter of the King George field building project and therefore abstained from voting.

**03.18(2).02 King George field Building project**

BE had circulated the following :

**Update regarding funding of the King George Field project to Lower Heyford Parish Council**

*Since the last meeting on 8 March we have endeavoured to try and re-instate the Viridor application, regrettably with no success. I have spoken to their Grants Officer and written to the Operations Manager. Subsequently my wife, Liz, spoke to the General Manager. The latter has written at some length and largely off the record and has indicated that there is no chance of re-instatement for a variety of reasons.*

*The Viridor issue seems to be that very early in the process a form was completed showing that Heyford Athletic Football Club was registered for VAT, which is not the case. The form also stated that John Varney was Chairman (which he is not).*

*We have in fact discovered that there has been more than one application to Viridor and multiple errors made in form filling. I think we can consider this avenue closed.*

*We have spoken to John Varney who, under the circumstances, has agreed to work on a fixed price. He also proposed that his brother, who is self-employed, will invoice us directly and so his costs will not include VAT.*

*We have spoken to Leader who are a local grant giving body and I am actively looking at splitting the project into two parts to avoid falling foul of their policy that does not permit any work until funding has been committed. The process is around 3-4 months and will only work if we can split the task into 2 distinct bids for support with their supporting the second one. Whilst I would estimate chance of success at 25% at best we will not know the outcome until after the build must commence.*

*We have approached Bicester Village for up to £2,500 and await response.*

*The situation is therefore now as follows:*

<i>KGF Funding summary</i>	£
LHVHF	99,327
FF	50,000
LHSSC	19,000
HAFC	7,000
LHRNC      Note 1	4,000
 <i>Pledged</i>	 179,327

<i>John Varney</i>	169,125
<i>Of which split:</i>	<i>BV</i>
JV	149,125
VAT (JV only)	29,825
	<b>198,950</b>
 <i>Shortfall</i>	 19,623

*Note 1      This figure has not been pledged but has been informally discussed*

#### *Conclusion*

*In my opinion this project is a must do for a variety of reasons. For me the most compelling reason is the benefit that it potentially brings to the community but there are many others.*

*That the funding applications have been mishandled going back to early 2017 is without doubt. It has been these errors that have created the financial situation in which the project now finds itself.*

*In and of itself we are at a water shed. We either cancel, defer or go ahead.*

*Cancel: This would cause enormous ructions for many in the village and the football club. It would leave the LHVHF with funds and nowhere to put them. It is a very bad option in my view.*

*Defer: This would create issues for the football club and probably mean it would have to drop down a league level and/or seek alternative ground. This might in turn lead to the under-maintenance of the facility and field which is one of the parish's prime assets.*

*Go ahead: This would involve some risk of late building completion due to lack of funds. No doubt there would be fund raising frenzy to make up the shortfall but my view is that it would be achieved either via Leader and/or fund raising activity.*

*On balance my view is that we must go ahead and that the PC should give whatever funds it feels able to in order to make this a feasible reality. I am of the opinion that the PC should consider and approve the sum of £10k as a minimum that will leave the fundraising task a realistic proposition.*

Since the parish council meeting held on 8th March 2018, the Clerk had researched into the PC's power to spend and discovered that " Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 parish councils have the "**Power to provide and equip premises for indoor sport or physical recreation, or for the use of clubs having athletic, social or recreational objects, and to contribute towards the expenses of another local authority or voluntary organisation in providing such facilities**".

After considerable discussion, JJ proposed that £10,000 be pledged to the project subject to :

- **£150,000 having being raised and received from other sources previously;**
- **a maximum of £10,000 will then be paid by the Parish Council in order to complete the project if no other funding has been found to be available in the intervening period (e.g. from Bicester Village or Leader or via other fund raising efforts).**

In making this gift available the Parish Council wishes to make it clear that under no circumstances will any further funds be made available from the Parish Council for the project in hand for any reason whatsoever and therefore the sum of £10,000 must be viewed as the maximum that will be made available.

With the exception of BE and LT who abstained from voting, the proposal was unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed ..... J.J. Macnamara, Chair Lower Heyford PC

Dated .....