

Little Thetford Village Hall

Charity Number: 1055086

12 January 2022

Little Thetford Parish Council

C/O

Mrs Amy Jacklin

Parish Clerk

Dear Councillors, Clerk, members of the public in attendance, and the wider community of Little Thetford,

We are grateful for the opportunity extended to us by, Little Thetford Parish Council, to address the community of Little Thetford, through the forum of the Parish Council meeting, about our new website, as well as inform those not aware, how to view the calendar and hire the hall from our Facebook page.

Firstly, how did this simple structure, erected in 1952, and still to this day central to community life, come about?

The founders of the Village Hall bequeathed land on which to build a hall for the community of Little Thetford, and prepared a governing document known as the trust deeds. The trust deeds as well as governance, also provided guidance on the appointment of trustees, length of term, and how trustees were to be drawn from local organisations and the community. Little Thetford Village Hall is a registered charity, our charity number is 1055086.

Our Trust Deed lays out our obligations and guiding principles. This old document has stood the test of time. There was no Facebook, email, or world wide web in 1952, this has meant subsequent generations of trustees have had the challenge of evolving and keeping pace with the times, sometimes with varied results, but as the hall is still standing, it is a testament to the successful ongoing efforts of past and present trustees, to keep the hall open for the community.

It is amazing to think the people of Little Thetford have had the benefit of the village hall since 1952!

The Parish Council have brought to our attention questions about our online accessibility and what our plans were to go beyond our Facebook page.

The Parish Council has demonstrated with its own new website, how, in this modern age, accessibility, transparency, and communication can be achieved online. The Parish Council have generously allowed us space on their website, where visitors to the Parish Council website can also view information about the Village Hall, including a calendar and booking enquiry form. However, an organisation in operation since 1952, a registered charity, with a plethora of information to share,

needs its own website. We have taken notice and will be launching our own website by February 2022!

The new website will include information about the history of the Village Hall, the Trustees, the facilities, a calendar, booking enquiry forms, and our policies and procedures.

Anyone wishing to book the hall or view the calendar can still do so from our Village Hall Facebook page, or the Parish Council Website. Our Village Hall Facebook page will continue, even when the new website launches, and we will speak with the Parish Council about how we can set up a link to each other's websites.

The agenda for this Parish Council meeting mentions in the section pertaining to the Village Hall, the phrase "operating rhythm" it is not a buzz phrase we were familiar with, so we had to check to make sure what it meant. According to Google, it is a concept created by Six Sigma, concerning communication between departments, while Little Thetford Village Hall is an independent organisation, we appreciate the value in having strong communication, collaboration, and cooperation with the other independent organisations in the Village. We commend the Parish Council for the lead they have taken in bringing the organisations in the village closer together.

The agenda item also mentions, refresh, there is actually a refresh of the Village Hall Trustees every 12 months, known as the AGM, which happens in March. It may seem like it is the same trustees on the village hall every year, but that is because we don't always have people step forward to become trustees, but we hope this year will be different.

Most people may not be aware, but in the run up to our AGM we write to the organisations in the village inviting them to put forward two representatives to sit as equal trustees on our board, this includes an invitation to the Parish Council. In the past we have had trustees that were Chair of the Parish Council and Chair of Little Thetford Village Hall, the last being the late Robert Bullen in 2015.

We are looking forward to our AGM in March, the exact date will be announced on our Facebook page, and on our new website. The AGM is open to the public and will be held in the hall. We will be reporting on the past year as well as, we hope, seeing new faces stepping forward to take their place as trustees or volunteers, we desperately need volunteers.

The Trustees of the Village Hall share the same aspirations and objectives as the Parish Council, to strengthen community cohesion and promote community spirit. Each organisation that accepts our invitation to become a trustee will have a chance to preserve the legacy, of a long line of trustees, in keeping the Village Hall open for the community of Little Thetford. We hope together we can do one better than, Operating Rhythm, and create our own buzz phrase, Synchronised Community Harmony.

Yours sincerely,

Dom Negroni

Chairperson

Little Thetford Village Hall

On Behalf of The Trustees of Little Thetford Village Hall