



## Bournheath Parish Council

### Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 7.30pm  
Held at Bournheath Village Community Centre

#### Councillors present:

Cllr Andrew Hewston (Chairman), Cllr Louise Colley (Vice Chairman), Cllr Sara Ffoulkes, Cllr Matthew Guest, Cllr Karen May, Cllr Peter Truman, Cllr Steve Westwood and District Cllr Margaret Sherrey

#### In attendance:

No members of the public

Clerk: Angela Barnes

1. **Apologies** - None
2. **Declarations of interest** - None
3. **Dispensations requested** - None
4. **Public Participation / Question Time** - None
5. **Purchase of Lease for BVCC from BDC** – With legal costs accumulating a decision to proceed with the purchase or not was required.  
Members were referred to Cllr Truman's emails, which listed the points to be considered, these points had been discussed many times. There were hurdles but also ways to work around them.

#### Concerns

**The main concern being the BDC ownership of the access/entrance to the site.**

**BDC will not move on their conditions of sale**

Solution - create a new entrance and move the barrier/gate (if the need arose).

#### **Such a big decision should not be taken by a few**

Councillors are here to make informed choices on behalf of the residents

The Lease has been on Agendas for many months, interested residents have had ample opportunity to come along and find out more.

#### **Capital reserve set aside for the lease purchase**

Funds had been built up over time, past Minutes and Annual Accounts had noted the reserves earmarked for various projects. Another project could be identified.

**Not many residents make use of the hall and only five Trustees came forward at the AGM held in November 2021**

A vote then took place on whether to proceed with the purchase based on the BDC paperwork:

For = 4 + 1

Against = 1

Abstain = 1

**The majority was FOR the purchase to proceed.** One Councillor arrived shortly after the vote had taken place (due to work commitments) but confirmed that they were "For" the purchase (the +1).

Since BDC believed only "legally trained people" could deal with this, the Clerk was asked to email the solicitors with the Councillors instructions and to seek assurance that the gate would remain the property of BPC and that operation would remain unchanged.

This meeting ended at 8:25pm

Awthorsh Chairman

12/1/22 Date

#### Appendix 1 – Instruction to the solicitors: -

**From:** Bournheath Clerk <clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 December 2021 12:09  
**To:** Tareq Ali <Tareq.ali@kidwellssolicitors.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: B00304-0001 FW: Subject to Transfer - Sale of Bournheath Community Centre Bromsgrove (B00304/1)

Good morning,

Unfortunately the meeting had to be postponed until 14th December 2021.

At the meeting the Members of Bournheath Parish Council (BPC) agreed to proceed with the purchase, it was not a unanimous decision but it was the decision of the majority.

Since Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) will not budge on the matter of access ownership, even though they are the minority user and joint ownership would make more sense, particularly as they do not wish to operate the opening and closing of the gate. **The Members of BPC need assurance from BDC that the gate across the access will remain in situ. That current practice regarding the operation of the gate will remain unchanged.**

This gate was installed by BPC at their expense on the advice of the Police after a break-in at the site. **It is on the BPC asset register and should remain the property of BPC.** The gate protects not only the hall but also the recreation ground from Travellers and Fly Tippers etc.

The documentation between the parties needs to reflect the above.

Please call me if you need clarification on any point or wish to discuss.

Regards

Angela Barnes  
Clerk to the Council  
Bournheath Parish Council

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