

**Filby Church Bells Restoration Project**  
**Communications Sub-Group meeting**  
**Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> 2024**  
**10.30am Florence Farm, Fleggburgh**

Members Present – Derek Nicker **DN** Nick Dawes **ND** Bernard Chase **BC**  
Martin Farrimond **MF**.  
Minute taker – Judith Richardson **JR**

1) **Apologies.** None

2) **Minutes of previous meeting** These were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3) **Ongoing Planning discussions**

- We need to demonstrate a need for the project to go ahead in order to secure NHL funding.
- **DN & ND** met at archive centre. Whilst currently the archivists have indicated that they want to continue to store their documents at the village hall, they would like to be able to display information at the church. Their main need is for display space.
- There was a discussion re digitising the archives to ensure their longevity. It was felt we should put our thoughts to them on this matter as they have only worked with paper documents thus far.
- **DN** will speak to local archive group re digitisation.
- **BC** has spoken informally to Ruth Blackman, who reinforced that we need to demonstrate need rather than potential. She also felt we would need professional help with our type of building to help achieve lottery funding. Ruth Blackman will send **BC** details of people who have experience with this type of grant funding application.
- It was agreed that initially we need to use these contacts and as many others as possible ( including Darren Barker ) in an informal way before making decisions re who we might need to pay for their services. This service would not be claimable against a NHLF grant.
- We should have formed some clearer ideas before we make contact with DB and possibly invite him to a comms meeting.
- Ruth Blackman advised 'thinking outside the box'. She also said we would have to demonstrate a need that stretched beyond the village itself.
- Ideas discussed included coffee shop facility, champing- ( church camping) ie simple accommodation. **BC** – we need to commercialise aspects of the church to futureproof it.
- Church facility should complement that provided by village hall and include things more suited to the church building. Making use of the good church acoustics etc.
- **DN** informed the group that our application could have a maximum of 6 letters of support so any used must be effective.

- **MF** said NLHF keen on digitising and making information available in this form
- **MF** will talk to contacts he has, including if possible the curator of the Museum of the Broads and Paul Cubitt for any helpful input including archives and environmental issues.
- It was felt that a visit to the county record office could be helpful and **ND** will contact them to arrange this.
- It is thought that Bishop Graham has possibly been given a role re net zero future target. If this is the case – Filby might be able to become an exemplar for this.
- **DN** will re draft the introduction to the website ( **ND** to amend as felt appropriate) and this could then be used for the start of a questionnaire. There was some discussion of how to ensure the widest distribution of this.

### **Actions**

- **MF** to peruse contacts he has, including a knowledgeable archivist and an environmental expert.
- **DN** to speak to local archive group re digitisation.
- **DN** to re draft the introduction to the website
- **ND** to contact county records office.

### **Next Meeting**

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2.0pm. Florence Farm