

Blackbourne and Wesley Management Committee

Report to EPC Meeting of 16th March 2020

The Chairman was pleased to report rapid progress on the Wesley site and that the builders were confident of finishing on schedule. With the aid of images on the screen, he gave a detailed overview of the progress and confirmed that the proposed site visit by the committee could take place once the kitchen serving bar was fitted.

With regard to the letting fees for the Wesley, it was agreed that this is best left until after the site visit but, in the interim, a few bookings have been taken at a rate 20% above the existing fees.

With regard to the purchase of the Greene King site, an Extraordinary EPC meeting is scheduled to agree the contract and completion is scheduled to take place on Friday 13th March. The Railway Tavern will be purchased as a going concern and, as such, free of VAT. A first task, it was suggested, will be to remediate the site, i.e. clear undergrowth and litter to liberate more parking space and allow a better overview so that options for use can be better visualised.

With regard to the formation of a CLT, the Chairman reported that he, Council Chairman, Cllr Pallett, Cllr Shaw and Cllr Mansell, had met with Debbie Wildridge, who advised adding three non-councillor members to form the starting group. The group will then invite members from the community at large and from the total membership a committee will be formed. The CLT will have no connection with the community pub.

The Blackbourne extension has gone out to tender and three companies from the six that were approached have replied. Costed plans will be required to secure funding for the project.

The weekend caretaker has had to leave for family reasons and the Chairman is filling in. The new Village Warden has been appointed and it was suggested that that role could possibly be widened to include some Wesley responsibilities.

The Treasurer, Mr Brooks, reported an income to 25th February of £60,417 giving a projection for the year of £67,500. The Chairman confirmed that EPC's Internal Auditor has agreed to inspect the booking records from the diary through to the bank account.

The Chairman was pleased to report a busy bookings period and requested some help in managing the car park on March 28th when the Nearly New Sale coincides with the 999 Day.

There was discussion regarding the failed gas boiler in the Bowls Pavilion and the Chairman agreed to secure a quote to have the electric heaters recently removed from the old Wesley hall installed there in preference to a new boiler which would cost £1,400. The Pavilion is rarely used in wintertime and seldomly heated so electric heaters would be much more cost-effective and more manageable.

Peter Edmonds, Secretary