

NOTES

Re-open the Crown and Cushion Committee Meeting

8pm - 27th April 2022 held on Zoom

Attendees:

Nick Collett

Andrew Bowen

Linda Gallagher

Rob Newbold

Alan Wynn

Darren Gallagher

Apols: / Rob White / Derek Wise / Tim Higginbotham / Gill Elwood

1. Letter to the landlord

Nick updated the committee on the recent email he sent to Adam & Louisa, Landlords of the Crown & Cushion, as the new Committee Chair. The email requested to open dialogue between the group and Adam & Louisa to find a solution to open the pub and retain transparency. No response has been received as yet.

2. Letter to Jonathan Djanogly

A letter was sent to MP Jonathan Djanogly, with an invitation to meet with him, as well as requesting his support in reopening the pub.

3. Letter from Council

Many letters have been sent to Hunts District Council regarding the reopening of the pub, including breaches of planning laws. HDC responded with the following:

- a. A legal notice related to the use was served on 12th April has a response date of 4th May.
- b. Matters relating to licence/community asset will need to be discussed with the HDC Environmental Health team
- c. From 13th May 2022 onwards, Andrea Dollard will be leaving her role and all communications will need to be directed to alison.twyford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk (planning enforcement team leader)

4. Landlords - next steps

Nick reinforced the need to keep the committees' actions positive. There is still a great desire to engage with the current landlords either by re-opening the pub or other options.

5. Plunkett meeting and membership

Nick met with the Plunkett Foundation 26th April and they have advised they have reopened 140 pubs in the last 5 years with a 99% success rate. They had a lot of success with pubs in a similar situation to Gransden, but they did not offer time scales at this point. They have a fee of £200 per year plus VAT to engage their services.

Agreed: The committee agree we would pay £200 plus VAT to engage Plunkett to start the support and guidance process.

6. Fundraising

The need to start fund raising was discussed, firstly to manage the admin costs of initial steps.

Further along the process, there is the option of a large range of grants to help the cause, including match funding and grants for Community groups. The idea of a music festival in the village to fund raise funds, in the summer, was suggested.

Action- Rob to create a petition to request donations from the village for Plunkett/ initial setup costs

Action- Derek to set up a bank account for the Community Group

7. Policy document & Manifesto

Andrew updated the committee on the creation of the charter that holds all committee documents and paperwork to ensure transparency. He advised this will be an ongoing process and will not be available immediately due to the work involved with initial setup. This will sit on the website.

Action- Andrew to share frequently asked questions within this charter

8. IT & website

Derek updated the group, post the meeting, that he has now registered a domain and we have a website for content to go on. He has created a couple of place holder pages and shared with the group.

9. CAMRA- Alan is to ensure we are following the correct process.

Action- Alan to speak with Ray from CAMRA

10. Next steps:

- We need to keep the pressure on Hunts District Council to enforce the law.
- Contact HDC Environmental Health regarding investigating Licencing conditions and requirements.

11. AOB:

This is the link to the Community pubs network on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/communitypubsnetwork>

Next meeting- 7.30pm Wed 18th May.

Action summary:

Rob to create a petition to request some donations from the village for Plunkett/ initial setup costs	Rob
Derek to set up a bank account for the Community Group	Derek
Andrew to share frequently asked questions within this charter	Andrew
Alan to speak with Ray from CAMRA to ensure we are following the correct process	Alan