



Minutes of Members Meeting

Held at the British School Room
At 7.30pm on Thursday 14th November 2013

In attendance and apologies

In attendance were Peter Sidebottom, chairman, Mike Johnson, John Knight, Richard Hulme, John Kerlake, Geoff Martin and 20 members.

Apologies were received from a further 8 members.

1. Chairman's opening remarks

Peter Sidebottom welcomed members to the meeting. He told the meeting about the impending visit to the Old School of HRH the Prince of Wales on Monday 25th November from 10.00am. He also outlined the efforts being made to minimise noise and nuisance caused by some delivery vehicles to our premises but also outlined the shortcomings of the 'playground' access to the premises and of its unsuitability for use by some of those vehicles. He said that SOSIC's priority will be to provide money to the Parish Council to enable them, if they wish, to pay down their borrowings as soon as possible and that he had discussed this informally with the chairman of the Parish Council who was in agreement with this objective.

2. Minutes of the Members General Meeting held on 12th November 2012

These were taken as read and approved.

3. Operations review

Mike Johnson ran through the history of the project and noted that the premises are in full occupation and offer employment to about 30 people on a part time or full time basis. A caretaker, Roger Whitehouse, and a cleaner, Christine Massey, have been appointed and a refuse store will shortly be in place. The rear car park has been 'white-lined' to show clearly the tenant parking, the turning areas for delivery vehicles and the area owned by the Village Hall. He re-iterated that the car park is not suitable for some delivery vehicles and indicated the efforts being made by the Post Office to manage the situation to the best advantage. He acknowledged that some issues remain with signage and that we are working with the tenants to resolve these. He said that limited external displays of produce had been approved by SOSIC subject to the rules that it has determined. Hortico were thanked for their hanging basket displays, brightening up the front of the building.

4. Finance report

Geoff Martin showed a summary of the statutory accounts to 31st March 2013 and of the cash position to date, its comparison with budget and the budget expectation for the full year. He indicated that progress in building reserves was being made slowly.

Re-election directors

After four years of office, directors who wish to continue must be re-elected by the members in general meeting. The four original directors have almost completed their first term and have expressed a wish to continue. A vote in respect of each was held and:

- 5. P Sidebottom was unanimously re-elected as a director**
- 6. M Johnson was unanimously re-elected as a director**
- 7. R Hulme was unanimously re-elected as a director**
- 8. G Martin was unanimously re-elected as a director**

9. Questions

In response to questions;

John Knight explained that while it was theoretically possible to strengthen the rear car park, the cost of doing so and the probable limited benefit of that expenditure make it unlikely that it would be a priority use of funds.

Geoff Martin outlined a possible mechanism for helping the Parish Council to pay down its borrowings when SOSIC has been able to build sufficient reserves to be able to contemplate this.

10. Chairman's closing remarks

The chairman thanked Mary and Roger Clements and the Congregational Church for allowing us to use the British School Room for our meeting and for their generosity in not charging for its use.

He thanked all members for coming to the meeting and for their continuing encouragement and support.

P Sidebottom
Chairman