

Riding Mill Village Halls CIO. Charity Registration No: 1192248
Open Meeting 24th May 2023

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Venue: Riding Mill Parish Hall

Start Time: 19:30

The presentation material can be viewed on the Riding Mill Village Halls web site.

Meeting opened at 19:30 with welcome by the Chair and the current trustees introducing themselves, this was then followed by the 'Unincorporated' Charities AGM, the notes for which are in a separate document. In turn the CIO Open Meeting followed on.

Open Meeting

The meeting commenced with a timeline of the transfer and the reasons for it.

This was followed by an explanation of the new Purpose, Mission and Values of the CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), with main message being **FOR THE COMMUNITY, WITH THE COMMUNITY.**

This was further backed up by a presentation of the results of a survey of the halls user groups.

The last slide was a request for more members of the community, with relevant skills and experience, to join the CIO Management Board.

Questions and Observations followed:

- A number of attendees voiced concerns regarding the ownership of the Millennial Hall (MH). The land was granted to the village for educational and entertainment needs of the villagers. The concerns were related to whether the CIO could, at some future date, sell the MH and whether there are any covenants against this in the deeds. The Trustees believe that the MH is 'locked down' and cannot be arbitrarily sold off.

Action: The Trustees to check the MH deed to confirm that this is correct.

Approved by the Chair of the Riding Mill Village Hall CIO Management Board of Trustees.
Issued on 09 June 2023.

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- The Cost of the MH maintenance (In the Unincorporated Charity Finance report) of £6019 was thought to be rather high as it was presumed to be relating to work on the oak tree in the grounds. The amount included hall decoration, but the majority was for tests and corrective work on the tree. The considered opinion is that the tree does have to be removed, but there were (unsubstantiated) concerns raised about the possibility of subsidence to the properties in the vicinity.

Action: The Trustees do believe that the state of the tree requires it to be removed safely and will take guidance to determine the best way to proceed. A staged approach to its removal may be the best way forward, to allow the ground to stabilise slowly although this is not substantiated.

- A timescale for the closure of the 'Unincorporated' Charity was requested. No definite figure can be provided, but an estimate is that it should be complete within 6 months.
- There is a concern that the CIO Trustee Management Board is a 'closed shop' and Trustees control the membership of the board.
- The meeting was reminded that the current Trustees are aware of this and the code of practice/values the Trustees follow is to encourage additional members from the community.
- Another point raised was that the current CIO constitution does not have a mandatory AGM.

Action: The Trustees to review the constitution to incorporate community requested changes. It was pointed out that this will not be done until the transfer is completed.

- Where will the Minutes of CIO Management Board meetings be made available to the community.
- Where will the names and images of the Trustees be posted?
- There is a concern that some members of the community do not have easy access to the Village Hall web site.
- A request was made for a CIO notice board to be put up in both Halls.

Action: The Trustees are to ensure that there will be CIO Management notice boards in both halls. These should display agendas and minutes of meetings. Trustees names and images and the CIO Purpose, Vision and values will also be displayed in both halls.

The Trustees will investigate whether Agendas and minutes of CIO Management Board meetings can be displayed in the notice cabinet on the wall at the Wellington. *(RMVH CIO open meeting minutes will be made available but, in general, CIO Management Board meeting minutes will not be made available to the general public)*

- Better communication of the changes to the Hall booking system was requested.

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- Better, more widespread communication of CIO Management Board meetings is also required. It was suggested that a user group circulation list be collated to compliment future mail lists for attendees. *(See reply to the similar request above)*

Action: The Trustees to ensure that these improvements to communication are taken on board.

Finally:

- The feedback from the nights attendees was that the CIO Purpose, Vision and Values are very encouraging.
- The need to improve methods of work (Processes, Procedures, etc.) was also noted and there was agreement with the Trustees that if possible we will learn from other Village halls to ensure any improvements we make are best practice and we do not waste energy developing from scratch.
- It was noted that the Pandemic had a detrimental effect on the Halls and it is hoped that the CIO will invigorate the Halls and their use.
- The Garden Invaders team is shrinking and new members are required. There was also a comment that this team are concerned about the dead ash trees in the Parish hall grounds.

Action: The Trustees to engage the services of a Tree Surgeon as soon as possible.

- The meeting was followed by Light refreshments and a chance for conversations on topics to be explored further.
- Anne's biscuits stole the night!