

## **THE FOX INN COMMUNITY PUB ~ ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING**

**8 JULY 2024**

**Present:** David Oliver (Chairman), Martin Sells (Treasurer), Helen May (Secretary)

**Apologies:** David Thorpe (vice-Chairman)

1. The Chair welcomed opened the meeting, welcomed members and noted apologies.
2. The Chairman's report was presented (below)
3. An update on the financial position was made by the Treasurer and the financial accounts were approved
4. A discussion was held about the current, unclear status of the Communities Ownership Fund (COF) and our application to it. At the time of the AMM, there was no update whether the COF would continue to be available, what the application criteria might be, or the status of open applications. It was noted that the Steering Committee had previously investigated what other grants and loans might be available. Any loans would require interest payments to be serviced and would be secured on the building. It was agreed to wait for the outcome of the status of the COF before making any further recommendations about alternative financing options.
5. There were no matters to vote upon
6. No further business was raised
7. The meeting closed

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

As we were registered as a Community Benefit Society in April 2023, it is time to reflect on our progress.

We have moved a long way in our aim to raise funds to purchase The Fox Inn, although the General Election meant our plans have been paused until the future of the COF fund is clarified.

Our team -Helen May (Secretary), David Thorpe (Vice Chair), and Martin Sells (Treasurer), have worked very hard to promote the project. I wish to register my thanks for their drive, support and guidance.

We are very grateful for the backing of the Parish Council, Plunkett Foundation, Cooperative Community Finance, LOCALITY and the REACH Fund in helping us prepare our documents and set up the necessary structures.

The timing of the General Election could not have been worse for us. It meant the freezing of COF just days before we were expecting a positive announcement on our bid for funding. We now await the decisions of the new Government on the future of this.

However we can list many positive achievements:

The support of the steering group and fundraising committee has been tremendous. Their work in running public meetings, social occasions, leaflet drops, social media posts and fund raising events has raised the profile of the campaign.

All of the above has brought the community together ( very necessary after the lockdowns) and involved peoples from surrounding villages. This has reinforced the belief in the need for The Fox as a key part of our community life.

The pledges of support (financial, material and labour) have been amazing, and have strengthened the case for COF funding support.

Our plans are ready. Once we hear news of future funding, we will call a public meeting to discuss the way forward.

In the meantime I wish to restate my thanks to everyone involved.

David V Oliver (Chair)

6<sup>th</sup> July 2024