

Hovingham with Scackleton Parish Council

Proposed New Constitution of the Hovingham Village Hall Management Committee

The Hovingham Village Hall Management Committee (HVMC) are proposing a new constitution to formalise the running of the Committee and ensure that members of the HVMC would no longer be financially liable. The Parish Council unanimously support these objectives however, cannot support the current proposed Constitution for a number of reasons:

a) There is ambiguity over the use of "Property"; referring either to the physical building, only the land, or both. The Council would suggest use of "Land" or "Building" would avoid possible misunderstanding. Land would refer to the whole area which includes the car park, land occupied by the Village Hall, the bowling green and tennis court.

b) The proposed Constitution enables the "Property" may be sold or used as a security for borrowings without consultation, the support of the Hovingham Estate (Estate) and the Hovingham with Scackleton Parish Council (Council). The Estate, Council and the Community believe that the Land would revert to the Estate should the Community of Hovingham (Community) no longer need it for Community purposes; which would not enable the Land to be sold by the HVMC or by a third-party to whom it had been offered as a security for a debt.

c) The Estate, Council and the HVMC are all parties to the 1930 Conveyance; the Council believe that it cannot be superseded by the proposed Constitution without their unanimous support of all parties.

d) The Council agree that the building and contents, not owned by others, do belong to the HVMC. The Council is not responsible for the management, construction and upkeep of the buildings and do share responsibility for the car park with the HVMC.

e) The Council's responsibility, as Custodian Trustee of the Land, is to hold the deeds for the land in the interests of the Community until the Community no longer needs it for Community purposes. The Council would return those deeds to the Estate if this event should occur.

f) The 1930 Conveyance includes the provision that the majority of residents of the Community, attending a properly called Village Meeting, must give their consent to any significant change, such as sale of the property, this must be retained.

g) The School, Cemetery, Church and Greens of Hovingham have all been transferred to the Community by the Estate until no longer needed for their appropriate purposes, when they would revert back to the Estate.

The Council believe that all the conditions of the 1930 Conveyance must be retained in the new Constitution, except with the unanimous agreement of the all parties to that Conveyance.

We have exchanged emails with Sir William Worsley confirming his agreement with our understanding.

Phil Chapman, 4th March 2017

Unanimously supported at Parish Council Meeting on 8th March 2017