

## SAVE OUR WHITE LION ACTION GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 20 April 2018 called to discuss Mr. Shenton's proposals for the purchase, refurbishment and re-opening of The White Lion.

In Attendance:

60 people were present. They included -

Cllr. Rachel Bailey (CEC).

Parish Councillors Ainley, Jones and Lee; and

Four members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee (Sarah Parker, Richard New, John Whitehead and Alan Draper).

Mr and Mrs. K. Shenton. The Action Group includes members from outside the village.

Apologies: Chris Whalley, John Durrant, Mr and Mrs. Mottershead.

1. It was noted that although this meeting was called by the Action Group at Mr. Shenton's request, invitations to attend had been extended to the wider village community.

2. Cllr. Rachel Bailey made the following opening comments;

i) She had met with Mr and Mrs Shenton at their request to discuss their proposals. At the meeting she had explained that any development could only proceed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, following consultation and would have to follow normal planning procedures.

ii) The "enabling" scheme which had been applied to previous developments at Hankelow Hall could not be applied again.

iii) She firmly believed that there was a need to enhance and extend community provision in the village and she would help and support the village in this regard.

3. Mr. Shenton was invited to explain his proposals. He said that over discussion about the recent Community Hub Questionnaire he had been asked by a resident to consider an alternative plan for The White Lion. His proposals included the purchase, refurbishment and re-opening of the pub. In order to raise the funds to achieve this he had plans to develop five detached houses behind Hankelow Hall. He estimated that this would raise £1,000,000.

4. Provisional figures for expenditure included:

New roadway to rear of hall	£125,000
Upgrading of Hall Lane	£150,000
Purchase of The White Lion	£500,000
Restoration of The White Lion	£350,000

With the additional costs, which include the fitting out of the pub, professional fees, contingencies and devaluation of the Hall, he calculated a deficit of £500,000. He planned to reduce this figure by selling two housing plots on the existing pub site. (£220,000)

5. Questions. Among the topics covered included:

The type of pub to be restored. There was discussion about the value of a village pub in meeting the needs of the wider community, providing meals to suit all age groups and access for community groups during the day.

Ownership - Mr Shenton said that, once refurbished, it was his intention to sell the pub to the community and reference was made to the share ownership scheme developed by the Group last year.

Concerns were expressed about safety issues on Hall Lane with increased traffic being generated by five new houses.

Other concerns were expressed by a resident of the “gated” estate with regard to security and privacy.

The meeting was asked for a show of hands to assess the level of support for exploring the proposals to purchase, refurbish and re-open The White Lion. There was broad agreement that there was a 90% show in support.