**MINUTES OF SANTON DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 16th December [j2019**

**Present**

**Michael Mackender, Chairman Debbie Cock**

**Andrew Butcher, Vice Chairman George Radford**

**Sylvia East, Parish Clerk Paul Brown**

**Gareth Rees**

**Cllr Victor Lukanuik and friend**

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Phil Wittam

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none received

1. **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 16th September**

These were duly signed as being a true record

1. **Parish Clerk**

The Parish Clerk advised the balance of funding remains much the same as at last meeting, with the exception of £200.00 that had been paid for the salt for the roads.

A discussion took place regarding the situation with the Rotary Club of Brandon & District. This was a discussion that should have been dealt with in a closed session, but since the Rotary Club had sent a copy of its letter to the Parish Clerk to each Parish Councillor which had been received after the Agenda had been issued, it was decided to bring the matter to a conclusion. The consensus of opinion was it appeared the Rotary Club were under the misapprehension that perhaps the Parish Council were not aware of what had transpired.

1. The Parish Council had asked the Chairman and Parish Clerk to seek legal advice regarding an Agreement made between the Parish Council and the Rotary Club of Brandon & District back in 2004, as it had long been considered the Agreement should have had an end date, and showed no legal consideration towards the Parish Council or Village Hall.
2. Following legal advice, a meeting was held with the Rotary Club and they were advised of the above and that the bar in the Village Hall would cease to operate as at the end of March 2020 as Michael Finch would be hanging up his bar person’s duties.
3. It was suggested that some discounted financial consideration would be required in the future to cover rent, heat and light. A figure of £30 per week was put forward but it was made clear this was negotiable The Rotary Club were given the option to remain in the Village Hall with the room and catering faciltiies but no bar.
4. The Rotary Club were made aware of the fact that the provision of a bar had never been contained within the agreement, and that unfortunately with Michael Finch ceasing as bar manager the Hall could not offer this service since in future it would need to be paid for. Regardless of any other considerations, the income over the bar on a Thursday evening only just about covered the supplies. This further subsidy was quite simply a step too far.

It was agreed the Rotary had received an excellent return on its donation of £30,000 back in 2004 to the Parish Council and, that they could have continued to receive a very good discounted facility for many more years to come. It was also agreed that the Rotary Club had been given more than sufficient time in which to respond and to re-negotiate as was expected. It was further agreed that the resulting two week’s notice to leave the hall was sad , especially since the original meeting had taken place some 8 or so months prior to this. The Village Hall Trustees were saddened by the outcome but both the Parish Council and the Village Hall agreed that free usage of the hall in perpetuity, was totally unsustainable.

The final conclusion and decision was that a line would now be drawn under this matter but that both the Parish Council, Village Hall and its village residents wish the Brandon & District Rotary Club goodwill for the future.

7. D**istrict and County Councillors**

There was nothing to report.

**8. Parish Councillors**

Potholes both on the village roads and on the highway were raised and both would be looked into.

The issue regarding the repair to the walk over bridge at St Helen’s was raised and it was recorded that

this remained outstanding. The Parish Clerk commented that apparently there was some hold up

regarding supplies.

**9. Chairman**

The Chairman had nothing further to add.

**Next Meeting**

This was agreed for Monday, 17th February.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm