

(VHMC)

In light of recent comments made by the Aberffraw Community Council (CC), the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) is making the following statement – followed by detailed notes and corrections of CC errors and assumptions.

VHMC STATEMENT

We reiterate that the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) prides itself in managing the Hall over the past 63 years. The committee:

- is a properly elected committee responsible to the residents of Aberffraw & area
- is safeguarding the Hall for the local community
- is properly minuting its meetings and makes these publicly available
- handles its accounts correctly with proper external audit processes
- has worked hard to redecorate the hall inside and out
- has obtained grants to increase community activities for all age groups
- has increased Hall usage by local and external users
- has encouraged Hall usage for both public and private events
- has provided unpaid voluntary assistance for Hall maintenance & event organisers
- has worked together with local villagers & the CC to enhance the Hall & activities

We are open to scrutiny and will happily incorporate ideas, complaints, new/changed members etc. Having taken legal advice from both the Charity Commission and ACRE amongst others we are advised it would currently be irresponsible and a dereliction of our duties to hand over management and finances to certain members of the community council with unfounded allegations and no plans for the future. We are here to safeguard YOUR Hall.

We once again, ask the CC to engage in constructive dialogue, instead of wasteful litigation, regarding the Village Hall management to enhance its usage for the benefit of inhabitants of Aberffraw and surrounds. We also invite constructive comments from the public.

26/3/2021

1. Recent actions and statements by the Aberffraw Community Council (CC) have been commented on in the VHMC March Meeting Minutes (10/3/2021). In particular –

- a) CC have given no response over 8 months to correct their inaccuracies and errors concerning VAT in their accounts relating to the Hall – CC now under scrutiny by Audit Commission.
Indeed CC continually refuse to engage in direct dialogue with VHMC or reply to its letters.
- b) CC will not provide Hall insurance and Public Liability details after several requests from VHMC.
- c) CC refused to hold a joint meeting to discuss matters.
- d) CC have issued a Solicitor's request to VHMC to hand over keys, documents, bank accounts etc. quoting inaccurately that they have been Trustees since 1965 – this is WRONG.
Deeds show the properly elected VHMC as Trustees. Furthermore CC did not even exist in 1965!
- e) Above request was NOT recorded in CC minutes – no reasons or future plans are therefore available
- f) CC placed public notice accusing members of VHMC of usurping Trusteeship, again quoting incorrectly the 1965 Deeds, and intended disbanding the Management Committee.
- g) VHMC explained item f) noting changes of contact details and that both committees were listed as Trustees. Relevant CC members and ex members were notified at the time.
- h) Without proper legal details on Trusteeship, reasons for handover request, nor minuted CC meetings, the VHMC did not comply and wrote to Solicitor and Charity Commission for clarification. None given yet.
- i) A pre-emptive change of locks to the Hall was made by the CC Chair on 8/3/2021 denying our access and that of our kitchen re-decorating team.

2. In response to a second public notice by CC (18/3/2021)

The CC suggest several times that they should take back control of the Village Hall from the 'unelected group' (VHMC) to safeguard its future for the entire community.

The CC are WRONG AGAIN ... they were NOT the Trustees since 1965

We note again the VHMC are:

- According to the 1965 Deeds the legal trustees of the Charity
- The VHMC did NOT change charity contact details without informing CC members.
- The VHMC have no intention of claiming sole trusteeship of the Hall, (see accounts returns)
- The VHMC are a fully elected committee according to rules set out in the Deeds & its Constitution
- The VHMC wish the Hall to be run efficiently, financially diligently, transparently, & voluntarily
- The VHMC note the lack of transparency in CC minutes on Village Hall matters

We therefore strongly suggest that the VHMC and CC work together in the interest of local inhabitants and YOUR Village Hall – see VHMC Statement above. Any helpful comments or suggestions from villagers are welcome.

26/3/2021