

NOTES FOR APM MAY 27 2023

GOOD MORNING

AS THE LAST VILLAGE HALL AGM WAS IN EARLY OCTOBER LAST YEAR, I SHALL PRECIS THE REPORT AND UPDATE YOU ON THE LAST 8 MONTHS OR SO.

WE WERE PLEASED TO HAVE A VISIT FROM THE NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING OFFICER AT THE END OF OCTOBER, WHO ADVISED US TO JOIN THE TWO SITES TOGETHER AS A COMBINED PROJECT FOR THE PURPOSES OF GRANT FUNDING, AND CONCENTRATE ON BARNARD MEADOW, TO SHOW THAT WE ARE PROACTIVE IN OBTAINING FUNDS AND GRANTS. THIS WOULD CARRY MORE WEIGHT WHEN APPLYING FOR FUNDS FOR THE VILLAGE HALL REBUILD. MOST GRANT PROVIDERS REQUIRE MATCHED FUNDING FOR PROJECTS AND THAT IS WHY CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE PARISH AND SUPPORTERS IS SO IMPORTANT. A BOOST TO OUR FINANCES WAS A GIFT FROM THE FAMILY OF THE LATE MARY GALE, AND ALSO OFFERS OF A PRACTICAL NATURE FROM THEM.

WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON BARNARD MEADOW SINCE THE UNCOVERING OF THE BUNKER AND GRAND OPENING OF THE SITE IN JUNE LAST YEAR. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR NEWS AND UPDATES. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF REFRESHING THE WEBSITE AND ITS CONTENTS.

LINK IS: www.hilcottvillagehall.uk

WE HAVE SOLD OLD REUSABLE TILES FROM THE SITE AT A SMALL PROFIT AND WILL ALSO BE DISPOSING OF THE OLD METAL. THE SKIP (GRANT FROM MAGIC LITTLE GRANTS) IS NOW ON SITE FOR OTHER RUBBISH AND MORE CLEARING OF UNDERGROWTH, BUSHES AND

HEDGES WILL TAKE PLACE ONCE THE NESTING SEASON IS OVER, AS WILL ERECTION OF A POST AND RAIL FENCE TO DELINEATE THE BOUNDARY (THANKS TO GRANT FROM PEWSEY AREA BOARD) AND ANDREW FORD FOR HIS GUIDANCE.

A SUCCESSFUL SITE SURVEY HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT AT BM AND AN ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT WILL FOLLOW IN THE NEXT 10 DAYS. WE CAN THEN APPLY FOR PLANNING PERMISSION FOR THE CAR PARK AND COMMUNITY GARDEN/SPACE.

WE HAVE DISPOSED OF THE OLD CHAIRS AND TABLES WHICH WERE IN STORAGE AT THE OLD RECTORY AND SOLD SOME TO WILSFORD VILLAGE HALL AND THE COOPERS ARMS IN PEWSEY. EVERY LITTLE HELPS.

AMAZONSMILE HAVE DISCONTINUED FUNDRAISING SUPPORT SO WE ARE PURSUING OTHER AVENUES EG GIVE AS YOU LIVE, FOCUSING ON RAISING FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY SPACE AT BM.

THIS YEAR'S QUIZ NIGHT IS ON 14 OCTOBER AT RUSHALL VILLAGE HALL.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY FELLOW TRUSTEES AND COMMITTEE, MADELINE, MALCOLM, PAULA (FOR HOSPITALITY AT IVY COTTAGE AND REFRESHMENTS), MAC, AMY AND FRIENDS OF THE HALL, STALWART VOLUNTEERS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION, ALTHOUGH LATELY SOME GREAT FINANCIAL ADVICE FROM ROBERT CHILLCOTT WITH OUR ACCOUNTS, ANDREW FORD OUR NEIGHBOUR, RICHARD FROM THE PC, AND THE PROJECT TEAM OF THE TWO "Ms", ABLY LED BY PATRICK, OUR ARCHITECT AND PROJECT MANAGER AND SUSIE FOR HER SUPPORT.

CAROLYN WHISTLER 27 MAY 2023