

11/2011 Village Post Office & Shop

The Chair requested suggestions from the meeting regarding the closure of the shop as the current owners will be closing the store at the end of September. The current owners have offered to assist with any transfer of business.

Three months notice has to be given to the Post Office by the owners, hence the closing date not being until end of September.

A questionnaire was circulated to the meeting to gain expression of interest.

Ian Messer who has had experience of a community shop explained that it could be quite difficult in getting a rota of voluntary help to man the shop.

The question was asked if the current owners would consider renting the shop out if unable to gain change of use?

The Chair confirmed that the current owners would like to move away and sell the existing property with or without the shop.

Neil Herbert enquired as to whether any grants had been sought to turn the shop into a community shop? This is not something that has been done yet.

It was advised that people view the 'Plunkett Foundation' website and also visit the Briantspuddle community shop to seek advice on setting one of these up.

District Cllr Cuff suggested a group of people get together to find out about grants etc rather than the Parish Council and also to identify the need.

Other discussions which took place included, assessing the reason why people don't use the current shop, alternative location for a shop, could the village hall be used as a market place?

Pru Jakeman asked if bringing the post office into the hall as currently happens in Piddlehinton could be considered. This is an option.

The opening hours of the current shop were also discussed and Jenny Sherwood felt that the hours aren't a huge issue.

It was agreed that before any potential community shop is set up it would need to know how the problems the current owners have experienced started as the same mistakes could be made again if these aren't clear.

It was also agreed that a working party should be set up to take this project forward and a list of volunteers was then sought and a date for a meeting was set.

12/2011 AOB

It was reported that Flooding at Hazlemere is still a problem.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.