

Agenda Item 11

Friends of Holmefield House Update:

The Friends of Holmefield House organisation (FHH) was formed in 2012 to oversee the use and promotion of Holmefield House. The Council usually appoints four Councillors annually to the group but this year the Council appointed five Councillors.

FHH has both a constitution and its own separate bank account with control of how the money is spent: inevitably quite a number of the outgoing payments are contributions to additional equipment and essential repairs at Holmefield House. One of the stipulations of the FHH constitution is that a Parish Councillor cannot be the Chair of FHH and that the Vice Chair will be a Parish Councillor.

FHH achieved great success in the early days promoting the building, encouraging a mix of both social and physical activities with businesses being charged a fee which is used to offset social activities who may only pay a small setting up/cleaning fee.

FHH sadly lost its long time Chair, Linda Crossley on her death in 2022.

Holmefield House was closed for a prolonged period through both the early lockdown and severely restricted in its use through the proceeding social distancing measures. Through this period few meetings were necessary but regular contact was maintained by officers of the group.

Since the removal of restrictions, FHH officers have striven to attract both previous and new users, which has successfully been achieved with letting equalling or exceeding pre pandemic levels.

At the 2023 Annual Meeting the Chair and Secretary stood down and it was agreed to recruit new members from the users of Holmefield House. So far five users have shown interest. Other users will be contacted over the next few weeks and a meeting will be called to co-opt the new members.