

## **STATEMENT FROM THE PILTON VILLAGE TRUST REGARDING THE PILTON CLUB**

The Pilton Village Trust has placed an advert seeking expressions of interest in running what is now the Pilton Club at the Village Hall. The purpose of this statement is to explain to the village, and to all of the Trust's beneficiaries, what the current arrangements are for the Village Hall, why change is necessary and what steps the Trust is taking.

### **Ownership and current funding of the Village Hall**

- The entire premises are owned by the Trust. That includes the old Village Hall, the shop and the premises which in the past were owned by the Pilton Working Men's Club.
- The Pilton Club operates from that part of the premises which in the past were owned by the Pilton Working Men's Club. The Pilton Club is owned and operated by a limited company called "Pilton Working Men's Club Limited".
- The Pilton Club funds and supports the entire Village Hall premises in the following way:
  - The Pilton Club carries out day to day management, cleaning etc of the entire premises (with the exception of the shop) at the Pilton Club's cost.
  - The Pilton Club pays for the services and utilities within the premises they occupy.
  - The Pilton Club donates its profits, if any, after expenses (including the management of the entire premises and cost of services and utilities) and tax to the Trust.

### **Why change is necessary**

- The current offering from the Pilton Club is not generating sustainable profits (after deduction of its own expenses and the costs incurred in managing the entire Village Hall premises). The Trustees have concluded that the offering is in need of change in order to ensure a sustainable offering which can support the Village Hall.
- The sole director of the limited company which operates the Pilton Club wishes to step down. The limited company cannot operate without at least one director. At present, the Trust is not aware of anyone who is in a position to be appointed as a replacement and to take the existing limited company forward.
- The Trustees cannot operate the Pilton Club directly. This is because the Trustees must act at all times to further the objectives of the Trust as set out in its governing document. The Trust has been advised that running a licenced premises with the aim of generating profit to maintain the premises is not permissible.
- Therefore the Trustees must find a third party which can operate the Pilton Club in order to both provide the much valued Pilton Club and to fund the entire Village Hall premises.

### **What steps the Trust is taking**

- The Trust has placed an advert seeking expressions of interest in running what is now the Pilton Club.
- The Trust has placed no restrictions on what form that third party could take. For example:
  - A new director could be appointed by the existing limited company, "Pilton Working Men's Club Limited", and an offering developed with a new contract to underpin it; or

- A different organisation could be appointed to provide the Club offering, again with a new contract to underpin it. That organisation could be a new limited company formed as a social enterprise for example.
- The Trustees hope that the advert will generate interest and ideas from villagers and others in the Trust's area of benefit.
- Anyone responding to the advert, will be provided with the same package of information (subject to agreeing a non-disclosure agreement) and will be offered a meeting to discuss the specific requirements of the Trust and to develop their proposal.
- The aim is to ensure that each person has the knowledge they need to develop an offering meeting the Trustee's requirements. Those requirements are always driven by the Trust's objectives and the Trustee's obligations to act in the best interests of the Trust and its beneficiaries.
- The closing date for expressions of interest is currently 20 July 2024. The timeline thereafter will depend on the expressions of interest received.

**The advert link is available on the Trust's website:**

[Welcome | Pilton Village Trust](#)

Any questions should be addressed to the Trust at [secretarypvhall@gmail.com](mailto:secretarypvhall@gmail.com). The Trust will answer all questions from that email address and will not respond via social media.

We understand that there has been a request to hold an extraordinary general meeting to discuss what the Trust is doing in respect of the Club. This statement explains the steps the Trust is taking and the Trustees do not consider that an EGM is necessary at this point in time.

We look forward to reviewing the expressions of interests and developing ideas for the benefit of the beneficiaries of the Trust.