

North Muskhams Café Hub Steering Group
Meeting - Thursday Dec 18th 2025

Attendance and Introductions – I Harrison(IH) Peter Hibberts (PH) Nigel Pimlott (NP) Mary Fletcher (MF) Nick Hutchings (NH) Emma Benson (EB) Chris Place (CP)
Apologies: Nick Noot Davioes. Sam Waterhouse.

1. IH and PH outlined the project for the benefit of new group members- using methodist monies from the sale of their chapel- to realise a café/hub with daily access for all – to improve engagement and inclusion and meet the desires of the methodists and the PC
2. PH and NP outlined the feedback from their recent meetings and communication with the Methodist legal property team and Plunkett Foundation. Key points included
 - a. There are restrictions on the use of methodist assets imposed by the Charity Commission
 - b. There was confirmation of two main options available to the use of Methodist asset returns:
 - b1. Sell the chapel to provide resource to build a new community café/ hub which would then be leased to the CBS with a license ensuring accommodation of the methodist occupancy needs
 - b2. Sell the chapel and loan the proceeds to the CBS with the Methodists hiring space as required for worship and community activity and paying a rental fee.
 - c. IH suggested a potential alternative option whereby the CBS fund and build a modular or container based facility with much less costs with the Methodist providing for the fittings and furniture etc from part returns from the chapel sale with the Methodists having use and accommodation by licence
3. Agreed that IH requests the PC clerk to write a joint (PC and Methodist) letter to NSDC to confirm the future sale of the Chapel to realise funding for the Community Café/ Hub ref the potential use of a Community Asset order.
4. It was confirmed there will be a further on line meeting with Plunkett when options and the potential option C would be discussed.
5. PH to discuss with Area Methodist Officers ref potential for option C
6. NH with assistance from CP and EB to draw up proposal drawings and estimates for Option C
7. Once Option C proposal is fully detailed and costed a public meeting will be held to raise awareness and seek feedback from residents and to seek potential CBS members, following which firm proposals will be made to the PC and the MRCC.
8. IH would update the PC and MRCC and with the PC clerk meet with the PC solicitors for advice on the lease arrangements required to accommodate Options A, B and C.

9. IH would seek a meeting with the new School Head to discuss future use of the MRCC by children of the village and any new potential changes with the Academy model now in place.

10. Next meeting agreed for January 29th - tbc