

Cambridge Venue Group

Minutes of the meeting of 24/3/87.

Present: David Mantripp, Gale Thomason, John McMurray, Robert Muir, Peter Sage, Jay Taylor, Pete Ingram, Tom Ling, Tom Shakespeare, Jem Linsey, Pete Robertson, Howard Godwin, Pete Hannan, Lyn Disley, Brian Musgrove, Sue Hall.

1. Matters arising.

Cost of building: Gale has spoken to the City architects, who were unable to provide any costing breakdowns to support the options put to the Steering Group. Tom Ling agreed that the costings were very unclear.

2. Election of treasurer

Following the resignation of Mark Russell, nominations for treasure were requested. Jay Taylor, Jem Linsey and Gale Thomason were nominated at the previous meeting. JL withdrew. After short hustings GT was elected for 1 year.

3. Discussion of proposals

The two proposals for a building put by the Council to the Steering Group were discussed. It was felt that the smaller of the two, whilst being fairly well fitted out, would not be an attractive or an economic proposition. The potential revenue from bar takings alone would not be sufficient to meet the requirements of our plans. The larger building, whilst slightly more attractive, would pose enormous problems as the provision of fittings would have to be paid for by immediate operating profits. It was not felt that an empty shell could in itself be used to raise operating capital, let alone profit. The CVG cannot accept the responsibility of backing either of these two proposals, and requires clarification of costings in order to discuss and put forward compromise proposals. Ideas included putting work out to tender to seek lower building charges, and getting the concept of voluntary or MSC labour sorted out.

Tom Ling pointed out that the financial limit imposed relates only to A&R, and that other Council committees could be approached for further appropriate funding (Environment, Community Services). The Venue Group emphasises the importance of the sound recording facility within the Venue project - it is felt that the Council do not appreciate the social & economic advantages of this provision. Tom Ling agreed that the Steering Group meeting on April 1st would go ahead.

4. Liaison officer

Following Pete Sage's departure from Cambridge, it was emphasised that the need for a technical liaison officer between the CVG & the architects office was important. DM volunteered to take over this role, providing the Steering Group meeting gave encouraging signs of the Council's intention to actually listen to the CVG rather than ignore us.

5. AOB

JT stated that the prize for the Venue naming competition had been awarded to the first entrant. However, there still appears to be no accepted name.

DRM/CVG.