

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: Annual General Meeting, 10th October 2019

Ellingham Village Hall

Present: Heather Cairns (in the Chair), Robert Stuart (in the Chair), George Unwin, Louis Fell, David Milne, James Mayers. Six members of the public.

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Heather Cairns welcomed everyone to the AGM of Ellingham Community Trust and introduced the Trustees to the members of the public.

Item 2: Apologies for absence

None

Item 3: Minutes of the last AGM

Heather Cairns read the minutes of the last meeting dated 8th November 2018. George Unwin approved the minutes, seconded by David Milne.

Item 4: Chairman's Report

Heather Cairns delivered the Chairman's report.

I'm going to start by describing my day. This morning I travelled to Newton to collect the children, headed to Jim Railton's to work, and collected the children from swimming bringing them back to Newton, giving me 30 minutes in the house. This will have bearing on what I have to say later.

I'm now going to give a potted history of Ellingham Community Trust. Hugh Fell determined that the money from the windfarm would be brought into the community and administered by the parish by a group of people representing the community. Ellingham is the only place to do this. It is thanks to the foresight of Hugh Fell that we have Ellingham Community Trust and we owe him a debt of gratitude. Initially Ellingham Community Trust had bold plans, trying not to spend the money but trying to create more energy and accumulating the money. In the early days, Ellingham Community Trust looked at projects around solar, wind, and biomass, but were thwarted by the grid being at capacity and incapable of taking extra generation and providing the feed in tariffs. A Biomass boiler was installed into Ellingham School to bringing the school off the mains gas supply. However, the length of time take to achieve the project lessened the feed in tariffs received. This length of project has resulted in trustees that have stayed on the board for long periods of time.

After this initial phase, Ellingham Community Trust developed plans to use the money as buying power for the community, providing heat logs, light bulbs which were less successful, the Domestic Appliance Scheme, business support, grants for Personal Development, payment for a Parish Magazine and servicing community defibrillators. Ellingham Community Trust had planned to support Broadband for the parish, but this has recently been withdrawn owing to the lack of agreement available from iNorthumberland and BT Openreach. While there is still intention for Ellingham Community Trust to support community wide broadband, currently the proposals do not cover the whole community as initially promised.

In 2019 Ellingham Community Trust agreed to fund a carpark and road to Ellingham School to address traffic jams on the main road. This scheme is taking longer than anticipated. In 2019 an ambitious joint application was received from Ellingham Village Hall and St Maurice's Church. This was above the level of funding available to Ellingham Community Trust on an annual basis and Ellingham Community Trust has looked to draw down funds to provide £150,000 to both Ellingham Village Hall and St Maurice's Church. Louis Fell had been asked to investigate the penalty of the early drawing down of funds. Ellingham Community Trust agreed that before any drawing down of money, a public consultation would be undertaken. This is where we are today. The chair can either be the chair and nothing else, or be driving the schemes. I am now stepping down from this position as I have lots to do, there are new people in the village.

Louis Fell thanked Heather for her time at Ellingham Community Trust, and her chairmanship for a number of years.

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Heather Cairns October 2019

The Trust accepted this report, approved by David Milne and seconded by Robert Stuart.

After the resignation of the Chair, the Vice-Chair Robert Stuart chair the meeting.

Item 5: Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer Louis Fell noted that the report below is a summary of movements for the last year to May 2019.

Income	
Wandylaw Wind Farm	£43,000
RHI Money from School	£2500
Interest	£
TOTAL INCOME	£46,9046.00
Expenses	
Payments to Parishioners (Fuel Scheme)	£
Solid Fuel Scheme	£30,271.00
Ellingham Parish Magazine	£
Personal Development Grants	£964.00
Domestic Appliance Scheme	£3,000.00
School RHI	£
Ellingham Church Eco Loo	£
Ellingham Village Hall (water boiler)	£
Defib	£
Other	£
TOTAL EXPENSES	£37,966
TOTAL	£53,500

It is to be noted that within this total, £18,000 was committed for Ellingham School's road project and £10,000 for the Broadband project.

Looking at 2019, the combined Ellingham Village Hall and St Maurice's Church application creates a challenge. Conversations with the Wind Farm company have resulted in an early draw down coming with a significant cost penalty. If Ellingham Community Trust draws down £300,000, £600,000 is lost over the length of the scheme. Ellingham Community Trust is actively exploring other lending opportunities which is proving difficult. Ellingham Community Trust has committed to continue its core business of the Solid Fuel Scheme, Domestic Appliance Scheme and Personal Development Scheme and needs about £32,000 to do this. In 2019 Ellingham Community Trust has offered to give Ellingham School the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) funds in order for it to build up a fund to pay for the Car Park and Road project which is taking some time to come to fruition, with a commitment that Ellingham Community Trust will top this up if necessary. This week, the Solid Fuel Scheme comes into fruition, with delivery of heat logs when it starts raining. In 2019 the heat logs are £90 per pallet cheaper than in 2018. The uptake of the Solid Fuel Scheme has been larger than previous years with 140 applications comprising of 62 heat logs, 34 hardwood, 9 coal vouchers and 35 households who have opted to take cash. New residents in Ellingham have applied. The cost for the 2019 scheme will be approximately £28,000 and all of the Solid Fuel should be delivered by mid-Nov.

Robert Stuart thanked Louis Fell for the report.

Proposed by David Milne and seconded by George Unwin.

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The Treasurer took questions. A member of the public asked whether everyone should just get money from Ellingham Community Trust. Louis Fell commented on the benefit of bulk buying for the community, versus spending the equivalent individually. He noted that the beauty of the scheme is that everyone gets benefit. Robert Stuart commented that community feedback on the Solid Fuel Scheme has been positive.

Item 6: Retirement & Election of Directors

All Trustees except James Mayer resigned.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chair. No nominations were received, and it was agreed to deal with this at a future meeting.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Louis Fell nominated Robert Stuart as Vice Chair, seconded by George Unwin. Robert Stuart accepted the position. Louis Fell nominated that Robert Stuart takes over the role of Chair until someone has been elected.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Treasurer. David Milne nominated Louis Fell as Treasurer, seconded by Robert Stuart. Louis Fell accepted the position.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Secretary. Louis Fell nominated David Milne as Secretary, seconded by Robert Stuart. David Milne accepted the position.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Trustees. Robert Stuart nominated George Unwin as a Trustee, Louis Fell seconded. George Unwin accepted the position.

It was noted that George Unwin continues as second authorisation and David Milne as third authorisation on accounts.

The Trustees noted that no other nominations had been received, despite wide advertisement of the AGM.

Item 7: Appointment of Accountants

Louis Fell proposed Michael Reed of Northumberland Accountants, seconded by David Milne.

Item 8: Matters of Urgency

There were no matters of urgency from the Trustees.

Ellingham Community Trust were thanked by a member of the public for the contributions towards making the Church watertight this year. Noted that the work is of very high quality and will last for several generations.

Item 9: Date of next AGM

8th October 2020 was agreed as the date for the next AGM.

*Minutes typed by Virginia Mayes-Wright
10.10.19*