

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 2nd April 2014

Ellingham Village Hall

Present: Gustav MacLeod, Robert Stuart, George Unwin, Christopher Watson, Stanley Calvert,

Apologies for Absence: Heather Cairns

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 5th March (previously circulated) to be amended before signature – under 'Legal Brief' 3rd para 1st sentence add 'and GU' as attending conference at Sintons; 4th para 1st sentence add 'total' before 'annual income' in lines 1 and 3; change 'total' in line 4 to 'trading'.

Matters Arising (not dealt with below): Sintons had advised that accountant should be engaged to advise on matters connected with trading and liability for Corporation Tax.

Treasurers Report: Bank balance: £64,624.00. Transactions: 2 interest payments of £9.91 and £10.13. Payment of £27.00 to Ellingham School in respect of printing costs.

Submission of accounts to Companies House – these were rejected as did not cover the dates expected by Companies House and report was not in correct format. CW amended to comply with CH requirements, ie accounting period 1.6.12-31.5.13, and full report from Mr M Love, Auditor to the Trust. Revised accounts presented to Trustees and signed by GM and CW – these will now be submitted to CH.

Engagement of Accountant – CW had asked M Love if he would be interested in taking on this work; he is to let CW know in next few days. If not CW proposed that he and GM should approach an accountant in Seahouses who has good references and has worked in a number of large corporations. Trustees voted unanimously in favour.

Decision: *CW/GM to await response from M Love and if necessary meet with Seahouses accountant.*

Indemnity Insurance - SC had not checked indemnity insurance as had only just returned from holiday – will check and report back to next meeting.

Action: *SC to check and report on indemnity insurance at May meeting.*

Energy-use Monitors – Which? report showed Owl monitors priced at £40 to be best buy and good value. After some discussion on whether or not these would be used it was agreed unanimously that 4 monitors should be purchased and these should be offered to parishioners to try out and evaluate. Should it be considered worthwhile then a larger quantity could possibly be purchased and given to households throughout the parish to keep and use.

Decision: *CW order 4 x monitors @ £40 each; these to be offered to parishioners.*

Update on Green energy schemes: School Boiler – Head Teacher had appeared happy with proposed costs but had referred information and figures to one of school governors who has experience of biomass boiler systems. Meeting to discuss/agree costs scheduled for Friday 4th April.

GM had circulated an article about the Community Energy Strategy which encourages communities to produce their own energy. However although a step in the right direction there does not appear to be much funding available.

Broadband – GM noted Broadband and issues around rural provision has been reported in the news recently, with the government being concerned that BT is supplying poor speeds and holding a monopoly on supply of broadband in rural areas, with network plans devoid of detail. GM has arranged a meeting with John Cooper of Arch Digital (looking at development of broadband in rural Northumberland) on Friday 4th April to see if there is any support they can give. Trustees encouraged to attend if possible CW, GM & GU will definitely attend.

MINUTES

Progress on Applications received: GM had discussed Churchyard application with Mr N Mundy and confirmed that Ellingham PCC could put a maximum of £500 towards the work. There was considerable discussion between Trustees as to whether or not this application should be supported given that the Church was listed low on parishioners' priorities as identified in initial survey. However it was recognised that the Church is part of the community and a centre for community functions such as school worship, weddings and funerals. It was also noted that there is an issue of Health and Safety around two trees which have been identified as dangerous. Furthermore the Trust has so far been unable to give many grants due to lack of suitable applications, and it would be prudent to support this application on the grounds of community safety. CW added that if this application were to be supported then Trust should look to increase spend on other community schemes such as the solid fuel scheme. SC suggested that the PCC should be supported with a grant to enable the safe felling of the two dangerous trees only and that it should be made clear that funding reflects community need.

GM proposed that £2,500 should be granted to the PCC to cover costs of felling trees T32 and T45 immediately (trees as identified in tree surgeon's report); any monies left over to be used for other tree works in the Churchyard.

Decision: Trustees voted unanimously in favour of this proposal – GM to advise PCC.

War Memorials – a proposal had been received from Mrs E Duncan regarding production of a booklet with names, photos and information about fallen soldiers, as part of the WWI commemorations. She would like to know if this is something the Trust would fund. After some discussion CW suggested that a series of staged payments be made subject to QA at each stage of production.

Decision: Trustees agreed to the above suggestion.

Action: CW to seek advice on QA process for this project; GM to inform Mrs Duncan of discussion and decision of Trust so that she may submit formal application for funding.

Dates of next meetings: Wednesday 7th May and Wednesday 4th June - 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Minutes prepared by: Elspeth Gilliland