

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 14th August 2014

Ellingham Village Hall

Present: Gustav MacLeod (in the Chair), Robert Stuart, Heather Cairns, Christopher Watson
Roger Lee (Parishioner – in connection with Broadband)

Apologies for Absence: Stanley Calvert; George Unwin

Broadband Report & Update: This item was brought forward as Roger Lee had attended the meeting specifically in connection with the issue of broadband. A Local Area meeting had been held on 1st August and a further meeting with Cybermoor held on 7th August. Ellingham will be one of three projects considered for upgraded broadband in the first year. Roger Lee and Graham Carr – parishioners – will tweak the software from buildfibre.com and map out network of fibre across the parish.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising which were not covered by the agenda.

Approval of Draft Minutes: Minutes of 17th July (previously circulated) were agreed with one amendment to be made – to be signed at September meeting.

Treasurers Report: Bank balances total £87,042.06 (current a/c £63,287.71, deposit a/c £23,754.35). 2014/15 grant of £38,389.79 from Blue Energy has been received. Contact for financial matters at Blue Energy is Jayne Ridings.

Accountant Services – Michael Reed has now been appointed to act as accountant and financial adviser. GU and CW met with him and discussed matters to be dealt with by him, noting that Trustees are concerned about costs. MR agreed that his work would not exceed the quoted sum of £1,250.00 and may be less depending on hours worked. MR has:

1. Checked the HMRC submission and will be the point of contact between HMRC and the Trust
2. Begun work on approved set of accounts for year ending April 2014
3. Been in contact with Samuel Phillips Solicitors regarding contract for work at school
4. Written to HMRC regarding trading issue, explaining work of the Trust and that any profit made will be put back into the Trust Funds.

LED Scheme Progress: Not all forms have been returned so project currently under budget. Deadline for submission of form has been extended – Trustees will chase up those who are known not to have returned forms. CW proposed that if project remains under budget then, in order to maximise the benefit from bulk buying LEDs, the quantity offered to each householder should be increased. HC seconded the proposal and Trustees voted unanimously in favour. CW further proposed that, subject to reasonable cost, the LED lamps should be delivered ‘bagged and tagged’ ie already in packs ready for delivery to each household. HC seconded proposal and Trustees voted unanimously in favour.

Decision: Order LEDs up to maximum budget and distribute to those who have returned forms. Investigate cost of ‘bagging and tagging’ and if reasonable then have lamps delivered ready for distribution.

Action: CW

Update on Green Energy Schemes: GM had telephoned Samuel Phillips Solicitor during previous week as the draft agreement for school/biomass boiler/trust had not yet been forthcoming. GM was informed that the person dealing with this had been off sick and was now on holiday. Trustees agreed that this is totally unacceptable and agreed that a meeting should be held with AC (Ethical Partnerships) as soon as possible. All agreed that GM should ask Samuel Phillips for the final date by

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which they can deliver the draft agreement and if this date is not met then Trustees with report to the Law Society.

Decision: GM request final delivery date for draft agreement from SP. GM request that AC attends next meeting.

Action: GM

Dates of next meetings: Wednesday 10th September, 7pm, Ellingham Village Hall

Minutes prepared by: Elspeth Gilliland