

## Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Ellingham Village Hall

**Present:** Christopher Watson (in the Chair), Robert Stuart, George Unwin, Stanley Calvert, Heather Cairns.

**Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes of November AGM held 19<sup>th</sup> November (previously circulated) approved and signed subject to amendment in last question/answer – cabinet to be installed in Ellingham, not Chathill, within next 18 months. Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> November not yet available.

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bank Balances: Current Account £23,172.97; Deposit Account £23,806.45; Total £46,979.42. Transactions in previous period: Domestic Appliance Scheme £1450.00; Solid Fuel Scheme £13,700.00. Committed spend (estimated): DA Scheme (15/16) £3550.00; SFS (Cash) £2,800; cricket coaching £440.00. Trust assets not allocated: £40,189.00.

Clerk to forward invoice for cost of trees to Treasurer. SC to forward itemised breakdown of expenditure from funding paid to Leek Club.

**Action:** *SC forward Leek Club funding expenditure breakdown and clerk forward invoice for trees as soon as possible.*

**Update Solid Fuel Scheme:** CW noted that £12,000 had been allocated to the scheme but actual cost in region of £15,500 – scheme is very popular. £2,800 to be paid as cash payments. Due to late return of some forms a further amount of fuel had to be ordered and delivery was more costly than the bulk order. Fuel will be delivered to all households before Christmas.

**Update Domestic Appliance Scheme:** Scheme proving popular; regular applications being received. HC asked whether members of the Trust could apply to the scheme. SC advised that if only a minority made use of the scheme this would present no problem.

**Interviews/Appointment of New Trustees:** CW to issue forms to applicants for completion, stating why they wish to join the Trust and what qualities they would bring to it. CW proposed that rather than holding formal interview the applicants should be invited to attend (individually) for a less formal conversation. HC stated that formal interviews should be conducted in order to ensure fairness to all candidates. After a discussion Trustees voted 2 for a formal process and 2 against; CW as chairman had casting vote in favour of less formal conversations. Dates and details to be arranged in due course.

**Decision/Action:** *CW to send forms to applicants for completion and to invite each for a conversation about joining the Trust.*

**Meeting with Church & Parish Council:** HC as Parish Council Chairman asked Clerk to invite all members of Village Hall Committee, Community Trust and Parochial Church Council to attend closed meeting of Parish Council on 04.01.16 at 7pm to hold an initial discussion regarding a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. A representative from NCC will also be present. Once initial discussions held with these representative groups a consultation will take place in the wider community. Trustees asked to inform Parish Clerk whether or not they are able to attend.

**Action:** *Trustees to respond to Parish Clerk's email to confirm whether they can attend.*

**Applications:** CW had received application from Mr P Robson to replace existing Chathill phone box (which has been adopted by Parish Council and into which a defibrillator will be installed in the New Year) with a

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traditional red box. SC stated that the current 'phone box was more aesthetically pleasing than the traditional red boxes were. GU abstained from discussion, declaring an interest as the phone box is visible from his home. RS stated that he would not support this application. HC stated that she did not feel this was a good use of money. CW supported the application because he believed it would have a positive visual impact for residents and visitors to Chathill.

***Decision/Action: Trustees voted 3-1 against supporting this application. CW to advise applicant.***

**Website Amendments:** CW has begun amendments to send to Bill Grisdale. If any other Trustees note areas to be updated please pass information to CW who will collate and forward to BG. SC to provide information and photograph of himself.

***Action: CW to send amendments to BG. SC to provide background information asap.***

**Broadband Update:** Leaflets received from Avonline regarding affordable satellite broadband handed out for distribution/to post on noticeboards.

**Dates of next meetings:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February  
Both meetings to be held in Ellingham Village Hall at 7pm

*March meeting date will have to be moved forward or back by one week – date tbc*

**Minutes prepared by:** Elspeth Gilliland