

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 26th February 2015

Ellingham Village Hall

Present: Gustav MacLeod (in the Chair), Robert Stuart, Christopher Watson, George Unwin, Heather Cairns.

Apologies for Absence: Stanley Calvert.

Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of January meeting (previously circulated) approved and signed.

Matters Arising: GM recorded thanks to all farmers and parishioners who helped with the distribution of logs from the solid fuel scheme – it was a good community effort.

Remaining B22 LED lamps to be distributed among parishioners.

Action: CW

Treasurer's Report: *Bank Balances:* Deposit a/c £23,775.31; Current a/c £39,174.89 (total £62,950.20). *Transactions in previous period:* Accountancy Services £170.00; printing £108.00; 39 x £100 Solid Fuel payments £3,700.00 (2 cheques not yet cashed). Committed spend: Chathill traffic calming project £9,000.00; School biomass boiler £30,000.00. Trust assets available to spend (ie non-committed funds) £24,000.00. CW noted that total cost of 2014/15 solid fuel scheme had been £15,736.00. Figures for WRAP funders need to be added to form provided.

Action: CW

Chathill Traffic Calming Project: Post on west side of village in place. Installation of post on east side began but in wrong place; suggested position deemed to be too close to railway crossing. Requires new meeting with Neil Snowdon, NCC Engineer, and request that he makes site visit so that position of post can be agreed.

Action: CW

School Boiler: Agreement now signed and returned. Ethical Partnerships has been asked to instruct EcoEnergy to proceed with installation. Payments for boiler installation are staged – initial payment already made, two further payments due. Invoice received from Messrs Samuel Phillips for preparation of documents, totalling £1500.00 plus VAT. All agreed that, as the delays caused by Samuel Phillips have cost the Trust a substantial amount of money, Trustee to contact them to express the Trust's concerns about the invoice amount.

Decision/Action: CW to contact Messrs Samuel Phillips to query invoice total.

Broadband Update: Report by Trustees attending meeting with Cybermoor had been unhelpful – there were no cost plans and no information regarding possible solutions. BT had previously given a cost of £35,000 to install a green cabinet at the back of Ellingham Hall. It was suggested making an offer of, say, £15,000 to BT towards any such installation. It was advised that, given the differences in download speeds at addresses in close proximity to each other around the parish, there would appear to be a problem with existing infrastructure which should be investigated and addressed first. By renewing transmission boxes on outside poles or lines into houses this can make a big difference. It was agreed that before offering a contribution towards a new cabinet the Trust needs to be certain that this would improve Broadband to a number of households; also clarification required as to whether the Trust would own or part-own the equipment, and if so what would liability be? It was also noted that an actual rather than approximate cost should be provided by BT. It was suggested that pressure should be kept on NCC/iNorthumberland as a

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commitment by them to provide broadband to every home in the county since this had already been made.

Decision: Continue pressure from Parish Council and Community Trust on NCC/iNorthumberland to ensure broadband of an acceptable speed available to all households

Applications: Application from Ellingham Leek Club had been posted in Trustees letterboxes. Not all Trustees had received an application prior to meeting. CW declared an interest, as he is a member of the Leek Club. Application requested £850 for community social activities. It was stated that as long as grant not used to purchase prizes, ie to pay only for entertainment, it was acceptable. The Trustees were happy to support the application as this was the only social activity provided in the village – however receipts for spend would be required. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the grant should be awarded but that it must be used only to support events open to everyone in the parish, and at the end of the year a report and receipts for the main events be available for accounting purposes.

The wording on the website must also be changed to read: “Normally you will be asked to complete a detailed cost plan and Ellingham Community Trust may request that invoices are submitted to be paid by the Trust”.

Decisions/Actions: Offer grant subject to confirmation that it will only be used to pay for entertainment open to whole parish and that a report on how the funding has been used is submitted at the end of the year **GM**
Clerk to request website amended as above. **EG**

Application from “Fabulously Frozen” received but due to only being submitted the previous evening Trustees agreed that this should be deferred to March meeting in order that they can give this extensive application proper consideration. One of the Trustees who had been contacted prior to submission had advised the company to put in its application. The Chair noted that he had contacted one of the applicants to seek clarification and gather some additional information to pass on to Trustees. It was agreed that it was inappropriate for any Trustee to act independently without agreement of all the Trustees.

Decisions: Clerk to contact applicants and advise that the Trustees will consider the application at the next meeting. **EG**
Once an application is submitted no Trustee to contact applicant without the agreement of other Trustees.

Any Other Business: All agreed that consultation with elderly in the parish by Bell View Centre, in the village hall on 24th March at 11am and 2pm to be supported/promoted by Trust around the parish, although noted that it is advertised on noticeboards and in the Parish Magazine.

Dates of next meetings: Thursday 19th March; Thursday 16th April – both at 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall

Minutes prepared by: Elspeth Gilliland