

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 13th October 2016

Ellingham Village Hall

Present: Christopher Watson (in the Chair), Robert Stuart, George Unwin, Louis Fell.

Apologies for Absence: Heather Cairns; Stanley Calvert.

Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of 18th August (previously circulated) approved and signed. Note that under 'Applications' applicant's name was spelled incorrectly – signed copy of minutes amended by hand; Clerk will amend electronic copy.

Matters Arising: Following August meeting where Trustees present agreed to one-off payment of £200 in respect of fuel costs to all eligible households, CW confirmed with LF and HC that they also agreed to this being made.

2016 Domestic Appliance Scheme form had been redrafted and approved; thanks to LF for printing. (NB there are still a few forms to be delivered in Ellingham village).

Amendment to Articles of Association: The Trustees present at the meeting (Mr S Calvert and Mrs H Cairns were absent) agreed that it was only proper that Trustees were able to benefit from the schemes operated by the Trust. However, and for the avoidance of doubt, they reaffirm that the benefits they enjoy do not exceed those enjoyed by all Ellingham Parish parishioners. Mr Calvert will continue work with Sintons to clarify the Clause in the Articles of Association. A statement to this effect will be incorporated into the accounts and report to the Charities Commission.

Treasurer's Report: Bank Balances as at 13.10.16: Current Account £54,677.02; Deposit Account £30,472.13; Total £85,149.15. Transactions in previous period: Grant to Namfon Mather £240.00; Trustee Insurance £261.80; Service Charge (Unity Trust) £18.00; DAS £300.00. Receipts: Nil. Committed spend (estimated): Domestic Appliance Scheme (15/16) £2,400.00; Winter Fuel Support Payment £24,000; SFS 2016 £16,000. Trust assets not allocated £42,749.15.

Domestic Appliance Scheme/Solid Fuel Scheme/Winter Fuel Support Payment: 46 responses received in respect of Winter Fuel Payment (deadline 31st December). Similar number received in respect of Solid Fuel Scheme (deadline 30th October). Three applications received under Domestic Appliance Scheme – two were retrospective, and for items which prior to August were not included in the scheme. Trustees discussed and unanimously agreed that these should be paid. Third application was for repair of vacuum cleaner (£70). These appliances are not eligible under the scheme however after some discussion it was agreed that the applicant should be paid but advised that this is in fact in breach of the rules and sets no precedent.

Action/Decision: *3 applications to be paid under DAS scheme; CW to advise applicants accordingly.*

Rural Broadband: GU to contact Graham Carr to discuss.

Action: *GU to contact Mr G Carr to discuss the scheme.*

Neighbourhood Plan Update: Application for funding to be made to relevant body.

Applications: (1) Application for £250.00 from G McLeod on behalf of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee for upfront expenses in respect of Plan. If granted the sum will be repaid once other funding received. All present voted in favour of granting this application. (2) Application for £139.18 from G

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Duncan on behalf of Village Hall Committee for new hot water boiler (use at village coffee mornings etc). All present voted in favour of granting this application.

Decision/Action: Applications granted. CW to inform applicants of decision.

Any Other Business: (1) The Trust needs a Company Secretary. CW proposed that SC should be appointed. All present agreed. CW to ask SC if he is prepared to undertake this role on the Board of Trustees. (2) Information is awaited from SC regarding RHI payment from school – CW to follow up with SC. (3) LF has been in contact with Brewin Dolphin – representative to report back as to whether the company can look after investments on behalf of Trust and if so prepare a proposal for same. Trust Accountant undertaking similar exercise with Sage Wealth Management. Once information received Trustees can consider options. (4) Agreed to defer AGM until Spring 2017 so that current schemes can be assessed and reported on. (5) Clerk tendered her resignation effective December 2016.

Decisions/Actions: Unanimous vote that SC be appointed as Company Secretary, subject to his agreement. CW to contact accordingly. CW to follow up with SC regarding RHI payment from School.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 17th November, 7pm in the village hall

Minutes prepared by: Elspeth Gilliland