

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 14th February 2019

Ellingham Village Hall

Prior to the meeting presentations were given by groups representing St Maurice's Church and Ellingham Village Hall joint grant application.

Present: Heather Cairns, David Milne, Robert Stuart, George Unwin & Louis Fell (in the Chair).

Apologies for Absence: none

1. Approval of Minutes:

Draft minutes of 6th December 2018 approved. Proposed by David Milne and seconded by Robert Stuart.

2. Actions not dealt with under this agenda

None.

3. Treasurer's Report

a. Treasurer's Reports

Louis Fell presented the Treasurers Report to the Trustees.

Treasury Account at £37,122.30; Current Account £18,413.36; giving a total of £55,535.36. Payments out included £314.00 for Personal Development Grants, £600.00 for six Domestic Appliance Scheme applications, £200.00 for outstanding Solid Fuel Scheme cash payments. Income for the period £37 Interest. Costs to come in in the next period include £1,800 for heat log delivery, two outstanding pallets of heat logs and four cash payments. The next Windfarm payment is due in June.

The trustees are aware that outstanding commitments remain for the two delayed projects (approx. £20,000) both of which delays are outside the influence of the trustees.

Louis Fell requested that an outstanding payment was made to Bill Grisdale for web hosting in 2018 directly from the Windfarm.

ACTION : Clerk to look into payment of Bill Grisdale via wind farm

The Annual Companies House submission completed by Michael Reed.

4. Applications

a. Broadband Update

The Trustees expressed continuing concern at the lack of progress despite the Trust's willingness to support some of the costs. The Trustees discussed the current position of broadband within the community and the original commitment made by the Trust. The Trustees agreed that continuing to commit funds to a project which is not delivering for the community is not a wise use of those funds. Heather Cairns to speak to Heather Smith at Northumberland Council about the progress with broadband for the parish in consideration of the delays and the Trust's need to continue to deliver it's objectives.

ACTION : Heather Cairns to write to Heather Smith with regard to the broadband.

b. School Update

Heather Cairns reported that the headmistress of the school has been unwell this term, so no progress has been made. The Trustees agreed the continuing commitment to fund the project, and discussed means of providing the funds to the school. It was suggested that the school could retain the RHI funds in order to fund the scheme. This would ensure Ellingham Community Trust enables the school to deliver the project in it's own timescale and retain the funds ringfenced for the project. Heather Cairns proposed and Trustees in full agreement. Heather Cairns to provide an update to the following meeting.

ACTION : Heather Cairns to provide an update to the next meeting.

c. Personal Development Grants

None in this period.

At this point in the meeting the Trustees took a break to consider how to fund larger requests for financial support which fit within the fund's aims and objectives.

The Trustees expressed their commitment to continue to fund the existing schemes, namely the Solid Fuel Scheme, Domestic Appliance Scheme and Personal Development Grant Scheme.

Louis Fell provided figures to the Trustees to aid the discussion. It was noted that Ellingham Community Trust could not fund a high cost project on the current annual payment income level. Louis Fell suggested that it might possible for the Wind Farm Company to advance a sum to cover a larger application.

ACTION : Louis Fell to approach the Wind Farm Company.

The Trustees noted that the use of such a large percentage of Ellingham Community Trust's funds needed consultation with the community. The Trustees agreed to undertake such a consultation in short order.

The Trustees discussed the mechanics of delivering a consultation in light of the experience of parishioners missing the Solid Fuel Scheme notices. The Trustees agreed to hand deliver the consultation, printing onto the outside of the envelope "Important information from Ellingham Community Trust Please Open" along with the Ellingham Community Trust website.

ACTION : David Milne to draft a letter for the Trustees when a way forward is established.

d. Church Application

The Trustees discussed how the St Maurice's Church application costs fitted with the Aims & Objectives of the Trust. The Trustees noted the response to questioning on the application viz the Church of England no longer directly pays for repairs of it's buildings and expects it's parish community to fund such repairs. In this light the Community Trust see this application within it's Aims and Objectives. Proposed by Heather Cairns and seconded by David Milne.

ACTION : Clerk to email St Maurice's Church.

e. Church & Village Hall Presentations

The Trustees discussed the joint proposal. The Trustees note that the application meets the Aims & Objectives of Ellingham Community Trust, and is something Trustees would like to support in principle, with both parties supported equally. The Trustees note that as this is a large proportion of the moneys held in trust for the community, the community needs to be consulted and the Trustees are in discussion how practically this would be funded.

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In principle, the Trustees approved £300,000 to provide equal funding of £150,000 each for St Maurice's Church and Ellingham Village Hall with the caveat of community support for the scheme, and a suitable funding mechanism in place.

5. Update on Active Schemes

a. Domestic Appliance Scheme (DAS)

Six applications in the current period. It is noted that this scheme continues to be well received.

b. Solid Fuel Scheme

Thanks have been received from various parishioners. A couple of outstanding deliveries remain and will be dealt with before the next meeting.

The Trustees discussed improvements for the 2019 scheme. It was agreed that all applications should go to George Unwin as a single point of contact. The application form will be created as a separate hand delivered leaflet with clear instructions that delivery can not be guaranteed unless an email address and a phone number is provided. Louis Fell suggested that forms are sent out in June 2019 to enable earlier buying and time to resolve any issues. The Trustees reiterated that the scheme was open to permanent residents only. The Trustees noted that the 2019 scheme will take in any new permanent residents of the new housing schemes in Ellingham Village.

The Trustees extend their sincere thanks to Pip Robson, George Unwin, Robert Dobson, Graham Carr and Wayne Scot for volunteering their time and effort in the delivery of the solid fuel pallets. Without their help and support, these deliveries could not be made.

ACTION : Clerk to write a note of thanks to the above for publication in Ellingham Parish News.

c. Personal Development Grant application

None received in this period.

6. Any of Competent Business

The Trustees noted that the new website was difficult to find if Googled. The Clerk noted that as a new website, it would take www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org a little while to build up the level of use, and therefore the search engine optimisation required.

The Clerk noted that people can receive direct updates from the website www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org.

ACTION : Clerk to put a clear flash in the Parish Newsletter with the new web address.

ACTION : Clerk to put information about the Neighbourhood Plan consultation on a post on www.ellinghamcommunitytrust.org.

7. Dates of the Next Meetings

Thursday 14th March 2019, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Thursday 11th April 2019, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Thursday 9th May 2019, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Thursday 13th June 2019, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

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Thursday 11th July 2019, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Thursday 8th August 2019, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Thursday 12th September 2019, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Thursday 10th October 2019, AGM 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall with ordinary meeting following.

Thursday 14th November 2019, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Thursday 12th December 2019, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Minutes prepared by: Virginia Mayes-Wright