

## Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Ellingham Village Hall

**Present:** David Milne (in the Chair), Robert Stuart, George Unwin, Louis Fell, James Mayers.

**Apologies for Absence:** None

### 1. Approval of Minutes:

Draft minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved, proposed by Bob and seconded by Louis.

### 2. Actions not dealt with under this agenda.

The Clerk looked into whether Ellingham Community Trust was required to have more than one Parish Councillors as Trustees. The Clerk confirmed that only one Parish Councillor was required to be a Trustee. The Trustees confirmed that they were happy with the current Parish Councillor. Trustees reaffirmed that they were committed to advertising for another Trustee, but agreed that as adverts recently run in Parish Magazine had not generated any interest; the Trust would re-advertise after the new residents had moved in.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

#### a. Treasurer's Reports

Louis Fell presented the Treasurers report. Expenditure is £15,883.63 comprising of 33 pallets of logs £6870.38, coal vouchers £1,800, cash payments £6,400 at £200 for all applicants as agreed in the October meeting, six DAS £600 and insurance £303.25. No income has been received for this period. Total £60,462.22.

Louis Fell noted that the income from the Windfarm has not been received yet. Further expenditure includes £400 to cover two missing Solid Fuel Scheme cash payments. The total Winter fuel cost in 2019 is £69,296.35 which leaves £14,300 for other applications and commitments.

### 4. Applications

#### a. New Application : Northumberland Rivers Trust

It was noted that this application wasn't eligible as the applicant does not live in the parish. It was noted that if this application had been received from any of the appropriate land owners from within the parish this application could be considered. The Trustees noted that there was no clarity about what work would be undertaken within the parish and how agreement from landowners would be sought.

**ACTION : Louis Fell to respond to the applicant.**

#### b. Update : St Maurice's Church Repairs Update

Thanks received for the re-granting of the funds.

#### c. Update : Village Hall & Church Application

David Milne met with the applicants to discuss the potential allocation of £3,000 to provide clearer plans. Both applicants confirmed that they were happy to split the application. The Trustees confirmed that these will be treated as separate applications in future meetings.

Gustav McLeod for The Village Hall fed back to Trust that Lottery funding been put back until next year reducing the time urgency.

**ACTION : Louis Fell and James Mayers to discuss further options with Gustav McLeod.**

# MINUTES

Neil Mundy, for The Church confirmed that they would use the £3,000 offered to bring in a consultant to develop their detailed plans and scheduled for the work needed at St Maurice's Church.

**ACTION : David Milne to update the Trustees on the progress of the Church application.**

**e. Update : Broadband.** No update has been received from iNorthumberland since the last meeting. Trustees noted that workers appear to be doing something related to Broadband without the Community Trust funding. The Trustees confirmed that they are willing to revisit the application and meet with iNorthumberland if an approach is made. Unless a new approach is made, Trustees requested that this item is removed from future agenda.

## **5. Update on Active Schemes**

### **a. Domestic Appliance Scheme (DAS)**

Six applications received in the last period. Clerk redesigned forms to remove cheque details.

### **b. Solid Fuel Scheme**

Most of the heat logs have been delivered, the hard wood logs are on their way. Coal vouchers have been issued and payments made. Two cash payments have been missed and will be paid in the coming week.

**ACTION : Clerk to email hard wood recipients.**

A new application has been received from a new resident in No 1 Maxwell Drive. Trustees noted their planning for the arrival of late applications from the new Maxwell Drive residents and approved the application.

**ACTION : Clerk to reply to the applicant.**

It was noted that one applicant was missed last year, and additional fuel was to be provided this year.

**ACTION : Louis Fell to check and ensure she is included.**

The Trustees noted that the extra pallets acquired for the Maxwell Drive residents, will be kept until the new residents in Maxwell Drive have moved in and have had them offered, and then sold at cost to any interested members of the community. The Trustees noted that as a charity Ellingham Community Trust are unable to trade, but able to recoup costs.

**ACTION : Clerk to devise an advert for remaining solid fuel.**

Louis Fell noted that the Solid Fuel Scheme was much more successful in 2019 than 2018. The Trustees expressed their thanks for the work undertaken by Louis Fell and George Unwin. The Trustees also expressed their sincere thanks to those farmers who have helped with the distribution of the solid fuel in 2019, particularly Pip, Graham, Robert and Ollie.

### **a. Personal Development application**

None in this period. Clerk noted advert placed on the Ellingham Community Trust website. The Trustees discussed the potential reach of the website, and requested figures on the website's usage.

**ACTION : Clerk to bring website visit figs to the next meeting.**

## **6. Review of ECT Strategy**

David Milne noted the potential of ideas beyond the current work of Ellingham Community Trust. The Trustees noted that any options provided needed to be available to the whole community. Louis Fell noted that the current financial commitments were just being covered and noted a discussion to invest a sum of money from the income in January 2017 to ensure a legacy of the Trust beyond life of the windfarm.

**ACTION : Clerk to recirculate the minute regarding the investment, and the minute altering the Trust's objectives.**

# MINUTES

Trustees reiterated that Ellingham Community Trust funds would not cover anything which should be funded by Local Authorities and statutory bodies. The Trustees noted the difficulty of the fund dispersing monies to an application based system, when applicants do not apply..

**ACTION : Trustees to consider ideas to bring to the Feb 2020 meeting.**

The Trustees discussed potential options. James Mayers suggested that need to look at the application based model, owing to the low levels of the applications for all except the Solid Fuel Scheme and Domestic Appliance Scheme.

**ACTION : Clerk to bring details of previous applications with the exception of the Solid Fuel Scheme.**

## **7. Any of Competent Business**

Clerk raised the issue of a retention schedule for minutes and other documentation.

**ACTION : Clerk to investigate regulations.**

## **8. Dates of the Next Meetings**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019, 7.15pm in Ellingham Village Hall. Dates for 2020 agreed

**Minutes prepared by:** Virginia Mayes-Wright