

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 15th December 2016

Ellingham Village Hall

Present: Christopher Watson (in the Chair), George Unwin, Heather Cairns; Louis Fell.

Apologies for Absence: Robert Stuart; Stanley Calvert.

Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of 24th November (previously circulated) approved and signed.

Matters Arising: New website host not yet found. Email response to Wandylaw businesses not yet sent.

Decision: *CW to send as soon as possible, apologising for delay.*

Treasurer's Report: Bank Balances as at 15.12.16: Current Account £13,262.65; Deposit Account £30,472.13; Total £43,734.78. Transactions in previous period: DAS £300.00; Fuel Support Payments £2,400.00; Northumberland Accountants £808.00; Verdo Renewables £11,880.00. Estimated committed spend: DAS £230.00; SFS 2016 £3,300.00. Trust assets not allocated £40,204.78.

Domestic Appliance Scheme/Solid Fuel Scheme/Winter Fuel Support Payment: *DAS scheme* – take up of this scheme good, especially since it has been expanded to include more appliances. Feedback received has been very positive. Budget for current year almost exhausted (there have been 50 applications in the last 12 months). CW proposed that 2017 budget for this scheme be set at £5,000.00; Trustees voted unanimously in favour.

Decision: *Budget for 2017 DAS Scheme agreed at £5,000.00.*

Solid fuel scheme – 101 people have ordered solid fuel; 33 have requested cash payment. Number of people taking fuel has decreased on previous years. Fuel has been delivered to all householders except those in Ellingham village – these deliveries will be made on Wednesday (21st) evening. It was noted that an alternative scheme which would be easier for Trust and for parishioners is being considered.

Winter Fuel Support Payment – 130 payments have been made. Closing date for applications is 31.12.16.

Neighbourhood Plan Update: Professional consultant Jenny Ludman has been employed. Grant application to cover fees not yet submitted – two Committee members currently working on this. CW noted that Trust had been informally approached regarding stop-gap funding but as yet no application received.

Applications: None. LF noted that Alnwick Tennis Club is seeking funding and had considered applying to Trust – Ellingham parishioners would be offered free membership of club. However all present agreed that funding could not be considered as the club is outside the parish of Ellingham.

Any Other Business: All Trustees agreed to offer the post of Clerk to Virginia Mayes-Wright on a three month trial. CW thanked Clerk on behalf of the Trustees for her work over the past four years.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 19th January 2017, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall

Minutes prepared by: Elspeth Gilliland