

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 16th February 2017

Ellingham Village Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: There were no apologies for absence.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes of 17th January 2016 (previously circulated) approved and signed.

2. **Matters Arising:**

The Trustees noted that the £800.00 Bus Service Grant had been returned from the Parish Council.

3. **Treasurer's Report:**

Bank balances as at 16.02.17: Current Account £9,544.65; Deposit Account £32,792.65; Total £42,337.30. There were no transactions in previous period. Receipts total £2,216.68; School Project RHI £1416.68; Repayment of the Bus Service Grant £800.00. Estimated committed spend: DAS £4,700.00; SFS £100.00; DAS 62 £100.00; Grant £195.00. Trust assets not allocated £39,458.98.

4. **Update on Active Schemes**

Solid Fuel Scheme : The Trust noted that there are a few loose ends to tie up.

Domestic Appliance Scheme : The scheme continues at a slow rate owing to most residents. Chris suggested that claims should be allowed once in a year rather than the current process of once in two years. There was a discussion about possible changes. All Trustees supported the decision to alter the scheme to allow claims to be made every twelve months.

5. **Banking Mandate**

The Trustees have agreed the following resolution.

That the people named in the banking mandate will be authorised signatories on all accounts, that instructions and changes will be given in line with the mandate.

The Trustees are aware that the Bank may not make enquiries before acting on instructions by any authorised signatory. The Trust will notify the Bank of any changes to the organisations in wiring.

Stanley offered to be on the Banking Mandate.

ACTION : Stanley to complete the Banking Mandate.

6. **Neighbourhood Plan Update:**

Most of the questionnaires have been returned. Heather and George noted that the grant money allocated for the survey can't be used for retrospective spend. The Parish Council plan to apply to the Trust for a small amount to cover retrospective costs.

7. **Investment Strategy**

This has been deferred to the next meeting.

Action : Louis to arrange meeting with interested parties as soon as possible.

8. Applications

An application was received from Robert Howcroft to provide a microwave Broadband solution for Wandylaw. The Trustees had an informed and lively discussion about the application. The collective views of the Trustees's are that they recognise the that poor Broadband is of major importance to many residents within the Parish and they are committed to finding ways to assist.

The Trust has for some time been trying to find a way of helping which is not disproportionately expensive.

There was a concern that a solution for Wandylaw would only help those residents at Wandylaw and that there were many other areas in a similar dire situation. It was discussed that if possible a scheme should be devised that could be rolled out across the whole parish open to all those open to all those who are eligible and wish to participate.

As a result two potential variations would be quickly evaluated.

1. Could the Trust pay the set up and difference costs of a satellite solution for low Broadband speed areas.
2. Could the Wandylaw microwave solution be extended to other areas?

It was agreed by all Trustees that if no generic solution could be quickly found that the current application would be given further consideration.

9. Any Other Business: None.

Date of next meeting: 16th March, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall; AGM 20th April 2017, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Minutes prepared by: Virginia Mayes-Wright