

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 16th March 2017

Ellingham Village Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: Heather Cairns.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes of 16th February 2017 (previously circulated) approved and signed.

2. **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

3. **Treasurer's Report:**

Bank balances as at 16.03.27: Deposit Account £33,214.73; Current Account £9,049.65; Total £42,264.38. Transactions in the previous period include an Educational Grant £195.00; DAS £300.00; Sub Total £495.00. Receipts £422.08; Sub Total £422.08. Estimated committed spend: Domestic Appliance Scheme (15/16) £4400.00; SFS 2016 £100.00; Accountancy Charges £80.00; Total £4580.00.

Note that Mr Callard had written asking if monies had been paid.. After checking the Chair has written to Mr Callard to confirm that the payment had gone through.

4. **Update on Active Schemes**

Solid Fuel Scheme : Mill Stone Cottage have requested logs which they did not receive from their application.

Domestic Appliance Scheme : Three requests have been received under the domestic appliance scheme. These have all been met. The Trustees noted that the scheme continued to prove popular.

5. **Neighbourhood Plan Update:**

Results back, next steps are to collate the information to produce a report. There was a discussion of the contents. The Trustees look forward to the production of the report.

6. **AGM Planning**

No details back from the bank regarding the mandate. Proposal to defer the AGM until the mandate has been confirmed and acted upon by the Bank and the new treasurer has been established in post. There was an unanimous agreement to do this.

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**

The Trustees discussed the rural broadband scheme. George gave the Trustees a briefing about his work and investigations with Alcon. George has had a letter from iNorthumberland from BT who will contribute funding to schemes to undertake work to supply fibre broadband to areas not reached by the main roll out. The letter from John Cooper noted that there had been limited contact from residents in the areas

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affected. The Trustees discussed the difficulty of the scheme versus waiting for the BT roll out noting the legal entitlement of all residents to 10mb in 2018. Louis requested information on the actual speed of broadband, he suggested that the replacement of the copper cable may be part of the issue. The Trustees agreed to further investigation of the issues. Louis felt he need to see more support from other residents, and an identification of existing speeds and an idea from Openreach as to the speeds. The Chair expressed concern that the Trust would be criticised if it did not support a Broadband solution for remote areas. It was apparent from the debate that there was not majority support from Trustee's to support the application at this time and further information was required.

9. Any Other Business.

Date of next meeting: 20th April 2017, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall; AGM 18th May 2017, 7pm in Ellingham Village Hall.

Minutes prepared by: Virginia Mayes-Wright