

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 17th March 2016

Ellingham Village Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: Heather Cairns.

Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of 8th February (previously circulated) approved and signed.

Matters Arising: LF to supply details and photo to CW asap. CW and GU meeting with Head Teacher at Ellingham School on Friday 18th March regarding three matters – overpayment for boiler to be returned to Trust; arrangements for repayment to Trust of heat incentive; possible application for a grant. CW/GU to report back to Trustees at next meeting.

Decision: *GU/CW to report on meeting with school at next Trust meeting.*

Treasurer's Report: Bank Balances as at 18.02.16: Current Account £18,218.68; Deposit Account £23,816.95; Total £42,035.63. Transactions in previous period: Domestic Appliance Scheme £100.00; Ellingham Parish Council (tree guards) £69.90; Cheviot Trees £201.60. Committed spend: Domestic Appliance Scheme (15/16) £3,200.00; DAS application number 25 £100.00. Trust assets not allocated £38,735.63.

Appointment of new treasurer: Bank requires LF to complete paper form with his details. GU agreed to remain in post until all details updated with the bank.

Decisions/Action: *GU to remain as treasurer until bank paperwork approved.*

Domestic Appliance Scheme: 25th application has just been received. Applications still coming in but rate has slowed down. Information about scheme will be included in June magazine, which is the next issue to go to all parishioners. CW noted that Trustees may wish to consider whether the range of household appliances that can be purchased under the scheme could be extended.

Decision/Action: *All to consider whether scheme should be extended to other items; to be discussed at a future meeting.*

Solid Fuel Scheme: All present agreed that for 2016 this scheme will remain at half a palette per household but will operate earlier in the year – probably November.

Decision: *Allocation of solid fuel to remain at half a palette per household.*

Agree assumed spending commitments and principals of investment strategy: CW asked Trustees to consider whether they agreed in principal to developing an investment strategy in order that the Community Fund continues after the 20 year life of the windfarm. He further noted that this had been the intention of the Trust when first set up however renewable energy schemes (which potentially would have generated more income) were not cost effective so this had been put on hold. If investments are to be made then Trust needs to start looking at this now. Discussions around amount to be invested conclude that this should be fairly fluid, depending on what other schemes were being funded at any particular time. CW suggested that a target figure is required, so that the Trust can estimate how much of fund needs to be invested to leave enough money to spend in the parish each year after the windfarm has been decommissioned. All agreed to this plan of action.

Decision/Action: *Sub-committee to explore investment options and report back to Trust.*

Applications: There were no applications.

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Any Other Business: None.

Dates of next meetings: Wednesday 4th May
Thursday 16th June

Minutes prepared by: Elspeth Gilliland