

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 21st January 2016

Pinewood, Chathill

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

Apologies for Absence: Stanley Calvert

Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of 26th November and 17th December (previously circulated) approved and signed..

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report: Bank Balances as at 21.01.16: Current Account £19,290.18; Deposit Account £23,816.95; Total £43,107.13. Transactions in previous period: Domestic Appliance Scheme £250.00; Solid Fuel Scheme cash payments £2800.00, cricket coaching grants £440.00; Northumberland Accountants Ltd £800.50; Bank interest £18.21. Committed spend (estimated): DA Scheme (15/16) £3300.00; Cheviot Trees (Parish Council grant) £240.00. Trust assets not allocated: £39,567.00.

Approval of Annual Accounts and Report: As all trustees have not had the opportunity to view these documents this was deferred until the February meeting.

Decision/Action: *Approval deferred – RS and HC to have sight of documents prior to next meeting.*

Residual Solid Fuel Supplies: Something in the region of 400 packs of solid fuel left over. Quantity to be checked. This could be kept until next winter providing dry storage is available or distributed among parishioners who subscribed to the scheme. It was agreed by all that this should be resolved in the most practical way.

Action/Decision: *CW to check quantities of fuel and make arrangements for distribution or storage depending on which will be the most practical solution.*

New Trustee Informal Interviews: HC requested letters from applicants stating why they had applied for the vacancy or trustee and what special skills or experience they could bring to the role. All four applicants had responded however D Metcalf away due to personal and work commitments and will not return until April. Remaining three applicants had been allocated times to attend for interview on Sunday 25th January. Each existing trustee will ask the same specific question of each applicant from which a conversation should develop and supplementary questions can be asked. Decision on who to appoint to be discussed and made following the interviews. HC to chair the process.

HC suggested that number of trustees could be increased to 7 if two of the applicants proved to be suitable however CW stated that this had been discussed by the Trust some time ago and it was agreed not to increase numbers.

Decision/Action: *Trustees to ask allocated questions at interviews on Sunday 25th Jan. Appointment of new trustee to be agreed following interviews.*

Applications: There were no applications.

Website Amendments: SC has provided information about his background for inclusion on website.

Action: *CW to information to Bill Grisdale for uploading.*

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Any Other Business: Any Other Business: CW had received email from Graham Carr regarding broadband but further clarity is needed to establish how the Trust might best help. CW asked permission of trustees to meet with GC to further discuss. GU to go with him; also to hold discussion with Aln Computers regarding feasibility. All present agreed to this. CW/GU to report back at next meeting.

Action/Decision: CW & GU to meet with G Carr to discuss proposed broadband scheme and Aln Computers to ascertain feasibility of proposal.

Dates of next meetings: Thursday 18th February
Thursday 17th March

Minutes prepared by: Elspeth Gilliland