

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 9th September 2022, 7pm, Brockdam Farm, Ellingham

Present: Judy Glover (in the Chair), Robert Stuart, George Unwin, Brenda Frier, John Thompson, Graham Edmondson, David Metcalfe, Louis Fell.

The Trustees noted the passing of the Queen.

Apologies for Absence: none.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Draft minutes of 11th August 2022 were approved, proposed by Louis Fell and seconded by Judy Glover.

2. Actions not dealt with under this agenda.

Clerk noted conversations with a new representative of Cubico regarding potential future funding.

ACTION : Clerk to respond to the Cubico representative.

- 3. New Trustees.** It was noted that an additional signatory for Unity Bank would be beneficial. John Thomson offered to be an additional signatory. The Trustees agreed to this option.

ACTION : Louis Fell to email John Thompson with the relevant forms.

It was also noted that new Trustees would need to provide their details for Companies House and the Charities Commission.

ACTION : New Trustees to send their title, full name, date of birth email and postal address to Louis Fell.

ACTION : Louis Fell to arrange updating Companies House and the Charities Commission.

4. Treasurer's Report

Louis Fell provided the Trustees with the Treasurer's report

Louis Fell noted that there had been no expenditure or income in the period. Louis Fell noted that the bank position was £112,676.35. Expenditure in the coming period includes £32,666 for the Solid Fuel Scheme and £13,000 as the first tranche of funding for the Village Hall grant. Income in the next period will include a recharge for the Admin costs.

Louis Fell suggested investing funds and recommended putting funds into a 90 day savings account or similar rather than investing it. The trustees discussed the options and noted need access to the funds in a couple of months to take into account emergency situations. The Trustees expressed a continued desire to create a legacy for the Trust, and continue the Trust's work beyond the funding of the windfarm. Louis Fell noted that the previous income modelling was based on a position of 2% interest; however current interest rates are bringing more money into the Trust. The Trustees noted the need to continue to discuss options for this.

ACTION : Louis Fell to bring options to the next meeting.

5. Applications

a. Update : St Maurice's Church Emergency Tree Works

The Clerk noted that she had been provided with an update on the removal of the Beech Tree in in the church yard. Yet another delay, was incurred. It was noted that the work would be rescheduled.

b. Update : St Maurice's Church Support Grant

MINUTES

A update was provided to the Clerk from St Maurice's Church, noting meetings planned to discussing heating. The Trustees noted the positive nature of the continuing updates even with nothing concrete to report.

c. Update : Ellingham Village Hall & St Maurice's Church.

No further update was received from St Maurice's Church.

No update was provided by Ellingham Village Hall.

ACTION : Graeme Edmondson to contact Ellingham Village Hall Committee for an update.

5. Update on Active Schemes

a. Solid Fuel Scheme

The Solid Fuel Scheme is in progress, with 139 applications in 2022. Heat logs have been acquired at £235 per pallet, and hard wood at £260 per pallet. With the £200 coal voucher and £200 cash options a total of £32,666 will be expended for the 2022 Solid Fuel Scheme. Local volunteers will pick up the heat logs. Delivery of the heat logs are planned to occur half in October and half in November; delivery for hardwood is planned for October.

The Trustees thanked Louis Fell for his continued efforts in regards to the Solid Fuel Scheme, and expressed admiration to the volunteers who deliver the fuel.

b. The Green Scheme

George Unwin noted that one application which has had to be turned down owing to the poor energy efficiency rating of the appliance.

c. TESS.

The Clerk reported that no applications have been received since the last meeting. The Trustees again noted the lack of take up of this scheme and discussed options in making Parishioners more aware of the scheme. The Clerk noted that historically a note had been put into the Parish Magazine.

ACTION : Clerk to put a note into the Parish Mag about the TESS and email.

The Trustees discussed the potential use of social media to ensure that the younger parishioners are included in the work of the Trust and make use of the TESS scheme.

ACTION : Graeme to bring ideas for a strategy for social media for the Trust.

6. Any of Competent Business.

Judy Glover raised the issues of energy crisis and noted that Ellingham Community Trust had created a precedent in the Financial Assistance Scheme supporting parishioners through covid. The Trustees noted that this may not be appropriate, but may also be a good use of additional funds. Judy Glover noted that this is a fast moving situation and that local businesses as well as parishioners would be suffering. Louis Fell noted that business support would be extremely challenging as the support the Trust could provide would not meet the considerable increase in costs. Louis Fell suggested a blanket payment to parishioners or a provision of targeted support to more vulnerable residents would be a better option; the Trustees discussed mechanism for this. Judy Glover noted that this should be a discussion for the next meeting.

7. Dates of the Next Meetings.

Louis Fell noted need for a date for the AGM. The Trustees discussed the need to hold the AGM in the new Village Hall. The Trustees agreed to push back the AGM date to 3rd November 2022 in the presumption that the Village Hall would be completed by then.

ACTION : Clerk to book Ellingham Village Hall.

MINUTES

ACTION : Clerk to advertise the AGM in the Parish Magazine.

Dates of next meetings:

13th October 2022, 3rd November (AGM), 10th November 2022, 8th December 2022.

Minutes prepared by: Virginia Mayes-Wright