AGM Minutes

Ellingham Community Trust

ELLINGHAM COMMUNITY TRUST MINUTES FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 6th November 2025 Ellingham Village Hall

ATTENDEES	
NAME	**ROLE**
John Thompson (JT) (Chairing)	Vice Chair
George Unwin (GU)	Trustee
Graham Edmonson (GE)	Trustee
Brenda Frier (BF)	Trustee
Virginia Mayes-Wright (VMW)	Clerk
Louis Fell	Treasurer
Judy Glover (JG)	Trustee
Members of the public	8

APOLOGIES	
NAME	**ROLE**
David Metcalfe (DM)	Chair

ITEM 1	**WELCOME AND INTORDUCTIONS**	
	JT welcomed the members of the public to the AGM and introduced the Trustees.	
ITEM 2	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**	
	David Metcalf.	
ITEM 3	**MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**	
	JT reviewed the minutes of the last meeting dated 7th November 2024. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved by GU and seconded by BF.	
ITEM 4	**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS & OBJECTIVES**	
	Chairman's report presented by John Thompson owing to the absence of the Chairman David Metcalf. I'd like to start with looking back over the year, and as planned in our financial outlook in previous years, it has been a year of steady progress and great collaboration. I hope you agree that the Trust is firmly established as a part of our parish proving assistance as required. I believe we can all see that, through the support from the	

	Wandylaw Windfarm, the parish continues to thrive. This is also through the excellent support provided by the Trustees who have excelled in maintaining this important financial resource that supports our households, its parishioners, and our environment. At the heart of the Trust there are three active schemes of which I will expand more on: The Solid Fuel Scheme, The Training, Education and School Support Scheme (TESS) and the The Green Scheme. <u>The Solid Fuel Scheme</u> The Solid Fuel Scheme has once again provided vital support to many households across the parish. It's aim is to ensure that families and individuals can keep warm and comfortable through the winter months. Over the past year, we have provided support to ## households through a mixture of various fuel sources. In a time when energy prices remain unpredictable, the scheme offers some reassurance. It is practical, targeted help that brings peace of mind, especially for older residents and those living in more remote parts of the parish. The Trustees continue to review the scheme annually, this includes fuel source providers, ensuring it remains fit for purpose, provides value for money and is flexible enough to meet our demands. <u>The Training, Education and School Support Scheme (TESS)</u> The TESS scheme is designed to support young people and learners of all ages — whether through school projects, vocational training, or higher education costs. This year, the TESS has provided ## grants for a variety of purposes. Each of these contributions has given the opportunity for parishioners to expand their vocational and skills-based training. <u>The Green Scheme</u> The Green Scheme reflects our shared responsibility for the environment and our determination to make sustainable choices. Through the scheme, parishioners have been supported in small but meaningful projects: improving home insulation, switching to more efficient heating systems, and adopting renewable technologies where appropriate. In total we have provided assistance to applications. These are practical measures that help towards reducing household bills in the long term and also demonstrate our parish's commitment to tackling climate change at the local level. The Trustees have been encouraged by the level of interest in this scheme this year, and we believe it has real potential to grow	

	further. The Green Scheme shows how local action can make a global difference, and I hope we will see more applications in the coming year. In addition to the schemes I've spoken about the Trust continues to support the Church during its improvements that will benefit the Parish, such as funding the new refreshments area within the church. Additionally, the Village Hall now has outdoor seating and I'm hoping you will have seen the changes to the Parish Magazine that have been funded the through the Trust. I would like to mention Bob Stuart, who was one of the founding members of the Trust, who sadly passed away recently. Bob will always be remember for his service to the trust and the Parish of Ellingham and particularly Brownieside. John Thompson noted that Ellingham Community Trust had been discussing updating the Objectives owing to a number being superseded by events, and to streamline the remaining Objectives. <u>Heritage, Culture and Local Environment</u> The Trust will work to protect and celebrate Ellingham's rich heritage, cultural traditions, and natural environment. This may include: • enhancing areas around the village and hamlets in the Parish. • supporting community activities and groups. • discretionary support for local heritage initiatives, including events, exhibitions, and educational programs/activities. • provide funding for a newsletter to all Parishioners. • Promoting responsible environmental practices, such as supporting the use of energy efficient appliances. <u>Economy and Employment</u> The Trust will support local economic development and employment opportunities to sustain a thriving community. This may include: • contribution to support marketing and training for local businesses and in exceptional circumstances for some equipment. • supporting skills development, training programs, and apprenticeships for parishioners, particularly young people. • supporting youth opportunities and transport access to educational opportunities. • the provision of contributions to parishioners, towards sustainable energies to reduce fuel costs and carbon emissions.	

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	Community Facilities and Services The Trust will help develop and maintain essential facilities and services to improve the well-being and quality of life for all parishioners. This may include: • supporting the enhancement of key community assets such as the village hall, village church, local school and public spaces. • facilitating opportunities for social engagement, including clubs, activities and events that bring the community together. Adoption of the updated Objectives was proposed by BF, and seconded by JG. **ACTION : Clerk to publish the updated objectives on the website.**	
ITEM 5	**PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**	
	Louis Fell presented the Annual Report and Accounts. The report below is a summary of movements for the year end. Income Donations and legacies £63,706 Charitable activities £195 Investment Income £583 Other Income £0 TOTAL INCOME £64,484 Expenditure Expenditure on Charitable Activities £53,287 Other Expenditure £330 TOTAL EXPENSES £53,617 **TOTAL** **£10,867** JT thanked Louis Fell for the report. Trustees thanked LF for his work for the year. The Treasurer's Report was proposed by BF and seconded by GU.	
ITEM 6	**RETIREMENT AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**	
	The Clerk asked for nominations for Chair. David Metcalf was proposed by JT and seconded by LF. **ACTION : Clerk to inform David Metcalf.**	

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	The Clerk asked for nominations for Vice Chair. John Thompson was proposed by BF and seconded by JG. The Clerk asked for nominations for Treasurer. Louis Fell was proposed by BF and seconded by JT. The Clerk asked for nominations for Trustees. Brenda Frier was proposed by JT and seconded by JG. The Clerk asked for nominations for Trustees. Graham Edmondson was proposed by JT and seconded by GU. The Clerk asked for nominations for Trustees. John Thompson was proposed by BF and seconded by GU. JT thanked all those who have stood for positions, and all the existing Trustees.	
ITEM 7	**APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS**	
	John Thompson proposed Michael Reed of Northumberland Accountants, seconded by GU.	
ITEM 8	**ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS** Question : A parishioner asked if there an end date for the money from the Windfarm? Answer : LF explained that the Windfarm has 25 year term from inception in 2012, giving the Trust an additional nine years of operating funds. LF noted that the Windfarm will probably request an addition to the lease and have confirmed their willingness to continue funding Ellingham Community Trust. JT noted the unique status of Ellingham Community Trust in terms of ability to disperse the funds to the community. Question : A parishioner asked about the connection of the Objectives to the funding provided. Answer : The Clerk informed the parishioner of the application process. LF noted Trustees desire to fund projects with full community benefit, and the limited nature of the fund. It was noted that the Trustees are happy to receive ideas of projects, but note that recent successful ideas have been from community organisations including Ellingham Village Hall and St Maurice's Church.	

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	Question : A Parishioner expressed concerns about recent scams, and requested support from the Trust by putting a note in the Parish Magazine. Answer : The Trustees accepted this as a good idea, and offered to submit anything the parishioner wishes to put together on this topic into the Parish Magazine.	
ITEM 9	**DATE FOR NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**	
	5th November 2026	

Minutes typed by Virginia Mayes-Wright