



Northumberland
NE48 2AA

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT BELLINGHAM TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 4 JULY 2017

Present: Edwin Wilkinson, Ken Gaskin, Pat Wilkinson, Ruth Everatt, Brian Tilley, William Wilkinson and Monica Tasker. Guests invited Janet Cresswell and Jim Robertson from Northumberland Community Development Network

1. Apologies: Joanne Roberts, Bill Burlton and Jamie Rickelton.

Edwin invited Janet to talk to our meeting, and giving some background as to the reason of her visit, this was her first approach by email:

"Northumberland Community Development Network has been working across the county since 2003 to support and assist individuals and organisations to develop and bring positive change to their communities. We do this through training, networking and community development projects.

Our project, Let's Get Together has been working with communities in Bardon Mill, Featherstone, Knarsdale, Lambley, Whitfield and Ninebanks for the last 18 months, supporting people to develop a programme of activities and events, with the aim of strengthening communities, encouraging volunteering and increasing usage of the village halls. Ideas for what happens in each community are put forward by the community and our team work with them to turn these ideas into reality. Activities are social or cultural events, or themed on health, learning or the rural economy. We have had over 600 participants / beneficiaries to date, with some communities now taking on their own events. NCDN has also supported some of the session leaders to consider self employment. We now have a small amount of funding to support similar activity in the North Tyne Valley, and wondered if Bellingham Town Hall would be willing to work with us."

There was much discussion following Janet's introduction and it was agreed that we could do with this help as the committee would like the hall to be used much more. Suggestions were yoga, keep fit and martial arts or anything that would be popular, and NCDN will provide and pay for someone to take the sessions. Other suggestions were for specialists to put on interesting events, training for activities and/or have a development group. They will work with us as a partnership to help us put on events. Brian said he will email Janet a copy of the new Community Directory that he is currently working on. Ken then invited Janet and Jim to have a look around the building to give them an idea of the facilities we have to offer, and they left the meeting.

The meeting continued.

2. Minutes of June Meetings: These were agreed to be a true record proposed by Pat, seconded by Ruth.

3. Matters Arising

New Room – Edwin reported that Neil Murray has started on the refurbishment and ordered the new external door and frame; he has lowered the floor in line with the kitchen and will cement this; currently awaiting the electrician. Edwin asked and Ken is happy to use the FOTH funds towards payments for this work, and said that Neil would like interim payments during the work in progress.

Website – is on-going. Joanne & Monica are in contact with Brian to update the website, however this is not being carried out promptly and is now looking out of date. After discussion Edwin proposed and Ken seconded it that Monica emails Brian to ask for 'right of administration' so that Joanne and Monica can do the updates and/or make any changes.

Library Contract – as this is on-going Edwin asked for it to be taken off the agenda in the meantime.

Windfarm Funding Application – ongoing as not open yet for application. The application could be for a sound system in the hall and Joanne has asked the Consortium for advice/info on sound systems from other organisations.

Tower Clock– Edwin reported that the Loss Adjuster had a look at the clock taking several notes, and will look at our policy with a view to our making a claim. The Mechanical Engineer, Smiths of Derby, came to take measurements as the frame will need a slight adjustment to mount the new motors. Smiths have kindly allowed us to make payments in three instalments without charging interest, which is a great help financially. It was agreed to use the second and third instalments as our project when applying for the next Coop funding which is for 2018.

4. Treasurer's Report – Pat reported on behalf of Joanne and said that the insurance renewal, the new stair edgings, the chains for the blinds and the first instalment for the clock have been paid. A new kettle has been purchased; Joanne has taken cash out for petty cash. The library invoice has not been paid and the next electric bill is due.

5. Any other business:

Pat said that Joanne has suggested asking the village children to draw bicycles, which will be laminated and hung outside the town hall front for the forthcoming Tour of Britain which will be coming through Bellingham on Monday 4 September. Edwin suggested that the hall be open on that day and to have sandwiches and cakes on sale. Edwin asked if we could meet on 22 August to discuss this further.

Edwin thanked Ken for fitting the edgings to the stairs making them safer. The bead chains have been attached to the blinds.

Ken said that there is a projector available at the Heritage Centre which we can use when required.

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 7.35 pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday 22 August 2017 at 6.30pm.

