**Belford Community Group CIO**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on**

**Monday 15th May 2023**

**At Bell View Resource Centre, Belford**

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|  | **Present:** | Pauline Tucker (Chair), Phil Dodd (Secretary), Charlie Wadsworth (Treasurer), Amanda White, Jane Cowley, Ruth Dodd, Del Hughes, Nikki Dunn | **Action** |
| **1** | **Apologies for absence:** | William McLaren, Karon Ives, Susan Husband |  |
| **2** | **Declarations of interest:** | None |  |
| **3** | **Minutes of last meeting:** | Everyone agreed the minutes were accurate. Pauline signed them. |  |
| **4** | **Matters arising:** | Nothing that wasn’t dealt with in the rest of the meeting |  |
| **5** | **Action Plan:** | **Alleviate Poverty:** Pauline and Jane had a conversation with Laura Rainey, Head Teacher of Belford School. They asked her to put in a grant request for funding (for example to support families who may not be able to afford school trips), so that the school does not have to find funds from their budget.  An email was received from Claire Nixon-Ord asking about providing activities for youngsters in the area in light of the fact that it has been estimated that 35% of Northumberland children are now considered to be living in poverty. The Trustees would consider supporting such a project should a funding request be made. Other conversations with the Church (Louise and Paul) and a recently set up Men’s Mental Health Group, may be areas in which BCG can offer financial support. Pauline to have further discussions with the Church and Claire Nixon-Ord.  **Improve Governance:** Jane suggested that a governance working group be set up which she will be part of along with Pauline and Charlie. However, it was stressed that all trustees must get a grip of this and Jane will send links via email regarding governance, which all trustees must read to help understand the issues involved. Jane met with Lynda Swinton to discuss finding trustees for us, especially someone with Health and Safety experience. Pauline is meeting with Michelle Muxworthy to discuss this matter as well.  The trustees thanked Jane for her hard work on the issues highlighted.  **Financial Planning:** Covered in Charlie’s report. (see attached) | **JC/PT** |
| **6** | **Belford Neighbourhood Plan:** | Amanda had emailed NCC with some of our concerns about the plan, especially concerning the shop. Their reply was not particularly clear in the event of the shop having to be sold, but we do understand that it has to remain as retail premises. The trustees felt that it would have been helpful to have some consultation on this. |  |
| **7** | **Possible Community Building**  **Project:** | Pauline and Jane attended a meeting on this matter and will report back as and when things develop. | **PT/JC** |
| **8** | **Preparation for**  **Insurance Renewal:** | Our current insurance is very expensive. Charlie has agreed to look into getting a better deal. | **CW** |
| **9** | **Museum:** | Karon forwarded her report, as she was unable to attend. She is making good progress regarding the Museum becoming independent. She will have a meeting with the Reading Room Trustees at the end of May and will report back. | **KI** |
| **10** | **Shop** | Sue was unable to attend the meeting but reported that the shop is doing well. Shelving has been put up and donations continue to come in. She is still waiting for the Health and Safety Assessment from Michelle Muxworthy. |  |
| **11** | **Woodlands** | Brian reported that they are continuing with the wildflower work near the fence alongside the burn – near the oak tree. They have a good group of people with some more new members. They have planted four willow trees alongside the burn in the Community Woodland.  An inspection took place at the end of March from Frances Povey, the Green Spaces Officer with NCC. She is very supportive of the work being done. Discussions about the state of the path took place and she has found money to supply ten tonnes of stone to make the path less muddy. Brian has written of N B Clark to see if they can provide equipment to lat the stone.  The Woodland Group is taking part in the Great Big Green Week, which is the UK’s celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.  On 10th June the team is joining with the Co-Op and Primary School to build a Hibernacula, and there will be a village litter pick up. Karen Armstrong, the Co-Op member pioneer is overseeing it. |  |
| **12** | **Gym sub-committee** | **Poster:** In order to attract more members, a poster is to be distributed to outlying villages.  **Lease:** The £10m public liability has been dropped to £5m. Requested that NCC drop other lease clauses, which ask us to indemnify NCC against all possible losses as Shaun Reynolds advises that this is not possible to obtain.  If agreed, no other obstacles to signing the lease just arrangements.  **Financial Plans:** Plans for the gym have been discussed relating to membership figures and grant funding for the next two years.  BCG looks to invest £25,000 in the gym over the next three years. The Gym Committee is applying for grants and look to increase membership to offset the investment. | **DH/CW** |
| **13** | **Markets** | A successful market was held in April with a good number of people involved in setting up and taking down. The next market is on Saturday 3rd June with 21 tables | **PD/RD** |
| **16** | **AOB** | None |  |
| **17** | **Date and time of next meeting** | **Next meeting: Monday 19th June at 7.00 pm at Bell View** |  |
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