**Belford Community Group CIO**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on**

**Monday 17th April 2023**

**At Bell View Resource Centre, Belford**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Present:** | Pauline Tucker (Chair), Phil Dodd (Secretary), Charlie Wadsworth (Treasurer), Karon Ives, Amanda White, Jane Cowley, Ruth Dodd, Susan Husband, Del Hughes, Nikki Dunn | **Action** |
| **1** | **Apologies for absence:** | William McLaren |  |
| **2** | **Declarations of interest:** | None |  |
| **3** | **Minutes of last meeting:** | Everyone agreed the minutes were accurate and Pauline signed them. |  |
| **4** | **Matters arising:** | Pauline has not managed to make contact with the Head of Belford Primary School regarding identifying areas of need where we can work together, but will try again. She has met with Rev’d Louise and Paul (Curate), and discussed working together with the school, Bell View etc. It was agreed that a letter should be sent out to the various organisation and try and get feedback to establish if or where there is a need for help in the village. | **PT** |
| **5** | **Action Plan:** | Jane has a copy of this and most people in the group have had sight of it. Everyone agreed to the plan, and it will remain on the agenda for the foreseeable future. | **JC** |
| **6** | **Belford Neighbourhood Plan:** | Earlier in the meeting, Guy Renner-Thompson joined us to help clarify some issues. Our main concern is that should it was become necessary to sell the Community Shop, would the shop have to remain as a charity shop or could it be sold for other commercial purposes’. Guy said he believed it could be sold but it would be more complicated now that it is in the plan, and suggested we comment on the NCC website. He did say we should have been consulted further regarding the building.  On the whole the trustees approve of the plan and its aim to prevent any more shops becoming residential housing. There is a critical level of holiday lets in the village and it seems that the authorities may take action over this. However, the Community Group has to protect its assets and we need to decide if any action needs to be taken before the plan is implemented. | **AW** |
| **7** | **Possible Community Building**  **Project:** | This will be discussed at a closed meeting later this week at Bell View.  Pauline and Jane will attend although the trustees agreed that if there is a plan to buy the school and it could offer affordable housing and a community space, they would be happy to support it. | **PT/JC** |
| **8** | **Preparation for**  **Insurance Renewal:** | A lengthy discussion took place regarding our current insurers and Pauline is to contact them tomorrow to clarify that we are paid up to date and ask when our renewal date is. Risk assessments and health and safety issues are well in hand, as these were requirements to be in place to be fully insured. | **PT/CW** |
| **9** | **Museum:** | Karen explained that she would like the Museum to become independent and she has the support of the current museum committee members. She said the Trustees of the Reading Room are in agreement for her to do this. Karon will need to look at the legal implications and cost of leaving the group and will talk to Marc Johnson about this and report back at the next meeting.  Karon has agreed to remain a Trustee of BCG. | **KI** |
| **10** | **Grant Applications for Approval** | A grant application was received from the Belford Show Committee for £2,000 to go towards the Annual Show in September, which was agreed. | **PT** |
| **11** | **Arts Festival** | Jane and Amanda met with Jodi to go through some of the issues regarding finance. There were concerns on both sides regarding the accounting being misrepresented, which they managed to sort out.  This was a positive meeting and Jodi and BCG can now move forward and work together.  The Trustees agreed to keep funding the Arts Festival Website during the consultation period. | **AW/JC** |
| **12** | **Gym sub-committee** | Insurance issues were discussed earlier in the meeting and one of the things raised is the question of whether the £10m insurance cover is too much, but after some consultation it was agreed that this is needed. The other issue is that NCC wants the Community Group to pay for legal costs if the building loses value, but our insurer queried this. Remedial work has been done and we are asking for permission to install smoke alarms. Attempts are to be made to increase membership. A new cleaner has been engaged. | **DH/CW** |
| **13** | **Markets** | It would be helpful to have more volunteers set up the market. | **PD/RD** |
| **14** | **Shop:** | Michelle Muxworthy has been asked to work with Sue to type up the risk assessments following her initial visit to the premises. She also has a contact number to give to Sue regarding arranging the fire risk assessment.  The Trustees thanked Sue for all her hard work in putting together the various health and safety policies for the shop. | **SH** |
| **15** | **Woodlands** | Brian reported that work is continuing on the wildflower area near the fence next to the burn. Frances Povey, the Green Spaces Officer from NCC inspected the woodland and was very supportive of the work being carried out. She is providing money for ten tonnes of stone to make the path from the Doctor’s Surgery to the High Street less muddy. Brian will ask the house builders (N B Clark) if they can provide equipment to lay the stones. |  |
| **16** | **AOB** | Pauline asked Nikki if she would become a trustee, to which she agreed.  Jane reported that successful governance training had taken place this afternoon.  Charlie reported that we now have online banking and he has sent information for the end of the financial year to the accountant. |  |
| **17** | **Date and time of next meeting** | **Next meeting: Monday 15 May at 7.00 pm at Bell View** | **PT** |