**Belford Community Group CIO**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on**

**Wednesday 22nd November 2023**

**(Following on from the AGM)**

**Bell View Resource Centre, Belford**

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|  | **Present:** | Pauline Tucker (Chair), Phil Dodd (Secretary), Charlie Wadsworth (Treasurer), Ruth Dodd, Amanda White, Jane Cowley, Karon Ives, Del Hughes  Denise Hiscox (Vice-President) | **Action** |
|  | **Others Present** | Judy Mudd, Paul Knox, Susan Husband, Linda McMahon, Keith Walker, Sharon Simmonds, Steve White, Linda Swinden, Val Glass |  |
| **1** | **Apologies for absence:** | William McLaren, Nikki Dunn |  |
| **2** | **Declarations of interest:** | None |  |
| **3** | **Minutes of last meeting:** | Everyone agreed that the Minutes dated 18th October 2023 were accurate, and were signed by Pauline. | **PT** |
| **4** | **Matters arising:** | None that weren’t covered later in the meeting. |  |
| **5** | **Treasurer’s Report:** | The recent burglary and the subsequent closure of the shop for ten days have disrupted a good selling trend. Otherwise the revenue from the shop has remained good.  The gym income has dropped. The main features for the year so far were income (mainly from the shop and gym) £29,532 and total expenditure £19,943. More details may be seen on the full BCG Income Statement for November 2023. | **CW** |
| **6** | **Grant Making Policy** | Jane circulated a revised grant making policy, which everyone had read. She felt there were three strands to look at more closely:  What is good practice  What the law says we have to do  What to do if we have too many financial requests.  It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the January meeting. | **JC** |
| **7** | **Action Plan Progress:** | **Grants:** We have received back more grant monitoring forms and the trustees will discuss this further at the next meeting.  We intend to continue to give out grants where applicable to help alleviate poverty. | **JC/PT/CW** |
| **8** | **Charity Commission** | Pauline and Amanda are still having difficulty accessing the CC website but will endeavour to get this done before the next meeting. | **PT/AGM** |
| **9** | **Arts Festival** | The Arts Festival committee has decided to become independent. |  |
| **10** | **Shop** | There are many implications resulting from the recent burglary.  Grateful thanks were given to the committee members and volunteers who stepped in at short notice to clear up the considerable mess. Several meetings have taken place to discuss the issues of security. New keys have been cut and in future no cash will be left on the premises. New banking arrangements are in place.  Derek Allen is to come and look at repairing the door.  Three quotes have been obtained for an alarm system and it was agreed by the trustees that we would go with Armstrong Alarms who quoted £450.00.  Pauline met with Juliet Short at Bell View and one of her ideas was to do a community Kitchen at the shop,  The Shop Committee will meet with her in the New Year to discuss and see if this is a viable option.  The shop will close from 22 December to 21 January. |  |
| **9** | **Museum:** | The Museum has become independent from BCG CIO. They now have their own insurance. | **KI** |
| **10** | **Woodlands** | Very little happening in the woodland at this time of year. |  |
| **11** | **Gym sub-committee** | NCC has assured Del that there is no aerated concrete in the gym. The electricity bill has not been paid since 2020 and the figure stands at £3924.54. We have budgeted for this payment. NCC is now asking for us to pay for water/sewage rates and it was agreed that we should not pay this bill as until we signed the lease it was not our responsibility.  No one new has come forward to join the gym-working group but another advertisement will go in the December ‘What’s On’. | **DH/CW** |
| **12** | **Markets** | The organizers are getting ready for the Christmas market on Saturday. Ruth is to ask Nikki if she has any idea of how many people will be bringing children to see Santa. Nikki has been widely advertising Santa’s presence amongst the families with children in the School. Culture Creative is providing materials to decorate the grotto. | **PD/RD** |
| **13** | **Grant Request:** | Two grant requests were received from Belford Arts Festival £600 and Belford Lights £1500. Both were approved by the trustees.. |  |
| **14** | **AOB** | Clare Wilford mentions BCG support for the Film Club at every meeting, which is much appreciated.  The purchase of an interactive board will be discussed at the next meeting.  A letter of thanks was received from Ruth Williamson for the Reading Room grant given. |  |
| **16** | **Date and time of next meeting** | **Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th January at 7pm at Bell View** |  |
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