**Belford Community Group Meeting**

**on Zoom**

**Thursday 3 February 2020 at 6.30 pm**

**Trustees Present: Pauline Tucker (Chairman), Dave Ogden (Treasurer), Phil Dodd (Secretary), Ruth Dodd, Amanda White, Val Barnsley**

**Others Present: William McLaren, Jane Cowley, Mandy Mease**

**Apologies for absence:**Denise Hiscox, Susan Husband, Del Hughes

**Minutes of Last Meeting:**Everyone agreed they were accurate, and Amanda signed them.

**Matters arising:**Dealt with later in meeting

**Gym/Incorporation:**There was some frustration that Jane had not received emails from Pauline and this needs to be rectifiedurgentlyand email addresses checked.

It has therefore not been possible for Jane to move forward with the Incorporation, as she has not seen the Constitution. Jane suggests we need legal advice and will set up a meeting with a solicitor. Although not all the Trustees are in agreement about going down the Incorporation route, it has been previously agreed by the Trustees that we would look into this further but also go ahead with work to the gym. Del is awaiting permission to go ahead with this from NCC. William advised that we should sign the lease and contacts a local solicitor, but not the one used by Bell View in Newcastle, to look for Incorporation advice. Jane, Del and Pauline will meet soon to discuss this. We are looking for the deeds to the shop, but we probably need to go through the Land Registry.

Steve asked the Trustees to give approval to Alan McFarlane to buy the heaters for the gym (before price increases) and install them when permission has been received from NCC, which was agreed, and also look at heaters for the shop.

There are currently 61 gym members and some members are prepared to help with decoration, etc.

**Action before next meeting:**

**Pauline to look and email addresses and send Constitution to Jane**

**Pauline, Del and Jane to arrange a meeting to discuss Constitution and Gym**

**Jane to set up a meeting with a solicitor**

**Steve to arrange purchase of heaters for the gym/shop**

**Del to seek permission to carry out works on the gym from NCC**

**Finance:**The takings were just over £1000 and outgoings over £4000. The expenditure was higher due to large bills for both the insurance and the accountant’s bill. The takings were down largely due to Christmas closures and the sale prices.

There is still some confusion about fuel payments from the BCG for the Museum/Reading Room. William thought that the museum was expected to pay the Reading Room’s electricity costs. We also wondered about the Snooker Room and who pays for their electricity. William will discuss the whole issue with Ruth, who passes the bills onto us. The Trustees discussed the issues regarding the Museum and whether it should be part of the Incorporation. This needs further clarification as well as the on-going electricity bills. Pauline and William will arrange a meeting with Karon.

**Action by next meeting:**

**Pauline and William to arrange a meeting with Karon.**

**Shop:**Everything continues to go well, and business is ticking over. It is likely the shop will become busier as we ahead towards the Summer months. Some issues with the heating still exist.

**Markets:**A pop up market will take place on February 26th at Bell View to cater for stallholders who lost business with the cancelled Christmas market (Storm Arwen).

It is intended to have an outside market during the Arts Festival (9-10 July)

**Woodlands:**The family who originally provided the bench would like to make a donation for it to be renovated and Keith is to be approached to see if he will carry our the work.

John, Martyn and Brian are to have brushcutter/strimmer training in March, funded by BCG. Plans are afoot to open up the burn so it is made more visible and the banks stabilised with willow and wild flowers. Bird boxes will go up too.

The WI is to plant a cherry tree to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee.

With 14 members in the group they are in a healthy position and an advert about the group will go in “Belford What’s on’, when it is hoped to attract some younger gardeners.

**Action: Val to liaise with Keith about the bench**

**Museum:**Karon reports that the guttering has been repaired although drying out is a long-term issue. More storyboards are to go up and low cost lighting is needed. The heating appears to be working well.

**Arts Festival:**A meeting was held and it was decided to go ahead with the festival this year, and there is a lot of enthusiasm. Ros and Chris are looking at music for the Festival. Artist’s fees are to rise to £40. It is hoped to get other Belford groups involved. Val is to meet up with Jodi to discuss finances and the BCG will provide financial resources as necessary.

**Action: Val to meet with Jodi to discuss budget for the festival.**

**AOB:**Bell View is thinking about the Queen’s Jubilee Celebrations and has asked for a member of BCG to join their working group. The celebrations will take place around about 2 June, but the details are unknown yet.

**Action: Sue will represent BCG and report back to the group.**

**Minutes:** It was agreed, whenever possible, the Minutes would be distributed to Trustees a short time after the meeting.

**Action: Phil to endeavour to do this.**

**Date of Next Meeting:**  **Wednesday March 2nd 2022, 1.30 pm at the Market Cross Guest House**