**Belford Community Group Meeting**

**Market Cross Guest House**

**Wednesday 4th March 2020**

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

**Others Present:** Del Hughes, Steve White, Karon Ives

**Apologies for absence:** Sue Husband, Denise Hiscox, William McLaren, Ian Hodgson

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Everyone agreed they were correct, and therefore Pauline signed them as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** none other than those being covered in the agenda.

**Finance:** The shop has been closed for refurbishment, but has now reopened and therefore money has started to come in.

There has been two major outgoings; the first being for the Arts Festival and the second for the hire of two containers from Ian Carruthers. It is unclear who has access to the second container. BCG Trustees have a key to one of them that holds market equipment etc. Ian also informed the Group that he would be raising rental costs from £200 per container per annum to £300. It is felt that we should have a conversation with Ian to see if it is possible to keep the cost down.

**Shop:** Very positive feedback has been received following the shop refurbishment. The volunteers are still doing the shop cleaning and one of them cleans the windows every Friday. We have plenty of volunteers, but Hazel is still ill and best wishes were sent to her. A gift will be sent once she is home from hospital.

Del has contacted some joiners and has met with one so far, it was agreed that once an acceptable quote has been received we should proceed as soon as possible. A two-part filler is needed to solve the problem and it seems the paint is flaking, as the wrong paint was used. One of the volunteers has also offered to repaint. We should ask Fiona which paint was used.

**Arts Festival:** A meeting was held today and Jodi seems to have most things under control, but some jobs may need to be delegated. So far the Blue Bell has not confirmed whether we can use the hotel or the Golf Club. Other venues will need to be found and the Primary School was suggested. A couple of poster designs have been produced and a very effective one has been chosen. A fund-raiser music concert has been arranged for 20th June, and the WI will provide teas. It was agreed that a Gaming Licence be purchased so that raffle tickets can be sold.

**Markets:** The dates are now listed in Belford ‘What’s On’, and Amanda will put them on Facebook, and inform other organisations.

**Museum:** At present grants are being applied for (Wind Farms and Arts Council) - many forms to fill in, but any grants could be used to help the museum move forward and reinstate the side part of the building.

**Gym:** We have been informed that there is a water meter in the gym, which we have been unaware of. In the past we have only paid electricity bills. We need to clarify with them what payment is expected, and resolve all outstanding issues.

Looking at the meter readings, the electricity bill should be about £300.

There is still a leak somewhere in the gym that needs attending to.

A discussion took place about using the old URC church as a gym, but this would be long-term project. BCG feels that a rental agreement with NCC for the current building would be preferred rather than a lease agreement, but this needs further advice and discussion.

Another clear up of the woodlands is to take place on Saturday 7 March, from 10.00 to 12.00

**AOB:**

The Friends of Belford Primary School are planning to make a new play ground in the School that would cost in the region of £10,000, and they are asking us to contribute £7,000. Val offered to visit the school, look at the plans and the space allocated and report back. The Trustees discussed match funding.

The Bowls Club are asking for £250 to help pay for extra fees being charged by the school and to pay for carpentry work to be carried out to store equipment. Agreed.

Publicity: the cheque presentation photographs of grants issued were put on the Village Website and Facebook. A conversation took place regarding further publicity and it was thought we could take some information from our Website to present to the local newspaper. It was suggest we involve Ben O’Connell.

Creative Culture has not replied to our correspondence regarding a shed, so Pauline is intending to contact them.

Dennis thanked BCG for his gift on his retirement as a Trustee.

Strategy Document - this is almost finished, but the grant allocation procedure still needs to be looked at. Val suggested we go back to it, so that all previous work will not have been wasted. One person could take each grant on, and report on the project.

Ruth has had contact with Val Glass over the fact that some of the planters need to be fixed, especially the one that was hit by a car and has fallen apart. Someone on Facebook has offered to help and Ruth said she would look at the planters.

Pauline suggested that we look into interactive. They would hold village information and inform visitors to the shop of the grants that we issue, e.g. red squirrel news, church clock…..

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7 April 2020**