BELFORD COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING

TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2018

MARKET CROSS GUEST HOUSE

AT 6.30 PM

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Les Car (Chairman), Dave Ogden (Treasurer) Pauline Tucker (Secretary), Dennis Crommarty, Doug Renton, Val Barnsley, Judith Thurland, Amanda White, Phil Dodd, Ruth Dodd, Fiona Rennes-Thompson, Ian Hodgson

**APOLOGIES:** William McLaren, Susan Husband, Graham Sargent

**GUESTS:** David Suggett and Helen Ellis:

**GRANT REQUEST:** Helen Ellis introduced herself to the group and outlined her proposal called ‘Friendships for Ages’ which is a multi generational project to support Belford Arts Festival to unite the young and the old generations of Belford to find out more about the past by working together to gather factual information that will be illustrated on a Community Memory Map. This will be shared with the public by way of an exhibition at Belford Middle School, a Memory Trail around the village, a student reunion at the school and possibly a permanent exhibition of Community Memory Map and supporting information in Belford.

A general discussion took place and Helen was asked information about the plaques she was planning to put around the village in a trail. Different types of plaques were discussed and the favourite seemed to be one that is made of clay and then fired, as this would be more in keeping with the ‘blue plaque’ scheme. The amount applied for is £850.50 and the Trustees agreed unanimously to grant this application

**ARTS FESTIVAL:** David Suggett introduced himself to the group. He has put in a bid for £15,000 to pay for the artistic spending as part of the Arts Festival from the Arts Council. He has obtained £1000 match funding from NCC Arts Council, £1000 from Belford Community Group as well as monies from the Co-Op. He estimates a budget of £26,000 overall. This would include five new pieces of commissioned work - what he believes the council is looking for which means engaging local artists, but also with a community engagement element. The projects include an Inter-generational project, with local artist Graham Patterson who works with found objects, and this would include an environmental conservation aspect. He proposes to use the Community Woodland (in agreement with Doug and Dennis), and engage local youth in the village to create artwork out of things found in the woodland culminating with an open-air exhibition. Also, work with Jeff Sample and Josie Snook - inter generational, which dovetails Helen’s project - he will interview people at day care and their portraits will be taken. He has recently received good publicity following an exhibition in Alnwick. Alongside this is a dance idea with Anthony Lo Guidicede – who is based in Newcastle. Anthony is keen to promote their work and has a new dance piece he would like to show in the UK and has said that if funding comes through he will launch at our festival. He is also keen to engage with the local community with dance workshops. Hopefully the Arts Council will see this as a great commission - good publicity. The dance consists of a male duet based around expression of sense of place and how people interact with landscapes. The work can be moulded to make it work for us. Artists fees £250 per day. This includes 4 days of workshops and performance £800. This includes him and two professional dances.

A general discussion took place and David was asked to involve Sarah Risebrough. David asked the Trustees if they are happy with the suggested projects, and mentioned site visits regarding health and safety and risk assessments. will need to take place. Volunteers and stewards would also be required.

He is hoping that the Arts Council bid will come through very shortly – by 15th January. He is meeting with Fiona and Judy to get the plans actioned and is aiming to get everything finalised and put into a programme by 23rd April. We will be charging for this brochure.

If we don’t get Arts funding - things are in place so we can still go ahead with a scaled down version i.e. films on lead up to festival being organised by Clare Wilford, as well as a 1940’s cinema bus. They will try and get sponsorship of £2000 from a local company and this will give them and the red carpet treatment – their own film night, drinks etc.

The bid also includes funding for a couple of bands - Small Hall Band, which is a local Northumbrian folk band.

The Festival will run from 26th - 29th July - key happenings - market, vintage bus, dance, - finale of festival on Wednesday.

There will also be community involvement - Jane keen to come back to do adult singing workshop only.

Bell View have offered match funding of £500 towards workshops as well as rooms in kind.

Writing workshops were successful last year. These have continued.

Discussion on VDR – we will have to leave until next year as cost is heavy and Clare away during the festival.

David will come back with revised ideas and plans should we not get the NCC monies.

**MARKETS:** Ruth and Phil gave out fliers for the markets dates for this year: 5th May, 26th May, 28th July, 25th August and 24th November (Xmas Market). They were very pleased with how the 2017 Xmas market went. Ruth made sure that everyone had a decent size table. She was going to put a thank you note into the Newsletter, but Amanda will put it on Facebook and the Website to thank businesses that contributed to the raffle and tombola.

**FINANCE:** Dave had sent out his report via email and gave the Trustees a snapshot of the finances. There has been a big hit on expenditure over last eight weeks due to the outlay of monies for various grants, but we are still in a healthy position with £23,000.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** Agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**SHOP:** Ian is in the process of decorating the shop and it is looking very nice. Val passed on her thanks to Ian for doing this. The Shop Committee met last night, and she reported that the safe is still not working. The Trustees agreed that she should buy a new safe and Les agreed to fit it. Volunteers will go into the shop this weekend to revamp it. Val asked the Trustees if they could update and get rid of some of the old notice boards, which was agreed.

The kitchen area is wet - external wall. Ian feels this needs a damp course treatment and may need tanking. To be discussed further.

Shop frontage - Fiona will firm up estimate into a quote, and also get a quote from Fantasy Prints for signage.

**GYM:** Ian has faced a lot of challenges regarding the gym over the last 3-4 months. Equipment has failed and other key equipment has needed replacing. There has been a lot of expenditure including £1000 for engineers. Our Insurance requires a technician to do the annual check. He was left with a remedial list of what needed doing. Running machines and rowing machine failed within about 10 days of repair. An engineer was also called out regarding the security system.

Looking at membership numbers these appear to be pretty good. Running costs should just about break even or make a small loss.

Ian feels that the level of service he is able to offer, is not good enough due to work commitments and isn’t to the standard he feels should be given.

Following a lengthy discussion regarding streamlining the administration of the gym it was agreed that Steve, Ian and Dave would have a brainstorming session and report back.

The Trustees wanted to thank Ian for his hard work and commitment to the gym and want to support him in any way possible. The idea of a press release to increase membership was also raised.

**Museum:**

Woodlands: Dennis - nothing new to report. John Hare – has offered to strim hedging in Jubilee wood as well as Community wood.

Les saw Alyn Spillett and he has agreed to tidy up the waste ground in February.

**Scale Model Club:** A letter has been received from Martin Baxter who runs the club, informing the Trustees that he left the grant monitoring form and photographs in the Community Shop, although the Trustees have no had sight of this. A letter has been sent explaining that there are robust systems in place in the shop regarding mail that is handed in and a further request for a copy of the grant monitoring form has been requested.

**AOB:**

**Newsletter:** A discussion took place regarding finding someone to replace Sue Dyer. Pauline to approach someone she has thought of to see if they are willing to take this on and will report back. The Trustees would like to thank Sue and Dave for their hard work in producing the newsletter.

**School closure:** The school will close in June. As BCG funded the building of the greenhouse, Amanda asked if it can it be moved. Les seems to think this is possible and we will have to think about where it can be best sited.

**Website**: Amanda will do another push to get more businesses to advertise on the website. She asked about reducing the advertising cost to £20 to cover costs, which the Trustees agreed.

It was also agreed by the Trustees that all Minutes from January 2018 will be put onto the website by Amanda. It is important that all members read the draft minutes and sent back to Pauline so that a true and accurate account of the meeting is put up in the public domain for greater transparency.

**Defibrillator:** Dennis will talk to Paul regarding this matter, once he has had time to settle back into work following his return to Bell View.

**Bird Feeders:** Val has bought fat balls for the woodland area.

**Date of Next Meeting: Monday 5th February at 6.30 pm at West Street Farm B&B.**