**BELFORD COMMUNITY GROUP**

**MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER 2021**

**1.30 pm at Del’s House, Belford**

**Trustees Present:**Amanda Ritson (Acting Chair)Phil Dodd (Secretary), Dave Ogden (Treasurer), Del Hughes, Ruth Dodd

**Jane Cowley was present on Zoom.**

**Others Present:**Mandy

**Apologies for absence:** Pauline Tucker, **V**al Barnsley, Susan Husband, William McLaren

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

**Matters Arising:**Dealt with later in the meeting

**Finance:**Dave’s report covers a two-month period, since illness prevented his attendance at the last meeting. The shop takings were down, which is partly explained by the power cut following Storm Arwen. However, despite this decrease there were a number of gym subscriptions, which means that income far exceeded outgoings. Our insurance company has lost our cheque, but they assure us we are still covered. Dave has sent another cheque.

**Shop:**The heating is better, but still underpowered. The timers are not being used correctly so Del is showing people how to use the controls. It was thought that a grant towards the heating could be obtained and we could get an energy certificate similar to the gym.

**Gym/Relation of Museum to BCG:**Membership continues to grow. Heating is desperately needed. There is a form from NCC re the heating that needs to be filled in (Steve kindly agreed to do this). There was some damage to the building from the storm, leading to a temporary closure, but it has now reopened. The double-glazed windows and doors were all damaged. A new set of keys has been cut, but there is no key for the disabled toilet, so it will have to have the lock changed. A schedule for the work, especially for the heating and the roof, needs to be arranged.

NCC Legal Department have sent a draft lease. They have also sent someone to do a survey of the current condition of the building.

Jane is looking into the incorporation status. The constitution needs to be looked at, and on the basis of this examination we need to see if we want to be incorporated and what sort of incorporation we need. There are issues with the relationship of BCG to the Museum. Perhaps the Museum should no longer be related to BCG and so wouldn’t be incorporated. Jane, Karon, William and Pauline will meet in the New Year to discuss the Museum’s relationship to BCG. It still goes back to the liability of the trustees. Concerns were expressed from Dave that incorporation could be a big issue and override everything else. Jane will try to move this forward as much as she can.

Someone is to ask Bell View which solicitor they use.

**Markets:**Ruth and Phil expressed regrets that the Christmas market did not take place due to Storm Arwen, and that the lack of power made it impossible to communicate with the stall holders.

**Woodlands:**the family who originally provided the bench would like to pay for it to be renovated.

Some damage to trees, large and small, occurred in the woods. The damaged larger trees being removed are beyond the capabilities of the woodland volunteers and Brian has emailed NCC for them to come and deal with this at their convenience.

**Museum:**The grant has arrived to pay for the new heaters. Another builder has been asked to come and look at the gutters. Next week the museum is to close for the winter. The Trustees wondered if the museum may be closed for too long and not be covered by insurance.

**AOB:**Del suggested that a meeting should be arranged (with Bell View and other interested groups) to discuss the possible use of Bell View in case of another emergency situation arising.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 3rd February 2022 at 630 pm via Zoom.