**Belford Community Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held at**

**Bell View Resource Centre, Belford**

**Monday 30th May 2022 at 12.30 pm**

**Present:**Pauline Tucker (Chair),Phil Dodd (Secretary), Amanda White, Ruth Dodd, Jane Cowley, Del Hughes, Susan Husband, Karon Ives

**Others Present:**Nikki Dunn

**Apologies for absence:**William MacLaren, Dave Ogden, Val Barnsley

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

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

**Finance:**Dave had forwarded a report. This showed that although finances remain strong, expenditure was far higher than income, due to the supply and fitting of new heaters in both the shop and the gym. Gym membership, shop income and Arts Festival squares fundraiser accounted for some of the income and a grant to the Belford show and PAT testing reimbursement contributed to other expenses.

**Shop:**Sue provided minutes of the volunteers meeting. This summarises everything, including the revamp of the shop, a clear intention for all volunteers to present the same message to customers and to focus on keeping everything tidy.

The heating system is a great innovation, but fine-tuning to keep a suitable temperature will take a while to get used to.

Further attempts to discourage donations being left outside the shop (when it is closed) need to be made, as often they get wet from the rain and are sometimes unclean.

It was agreed that the Black Swan could use the shop’s electricity for cooking during the Jubilee celebrations.

**Gym:**The working group met again. Some of the working group are going to clean the gym this Wednesday and again when necessary, and then perhaps involve a larger section of the gym users. The cooker has been disposed of and Carole is arranging for the fridge to go to the tip. Carole and Del are getting quotes to make the building watertight. The asbestos test has revealed that there is no asbestos in the ceiling tiles, but it is present in the floor tiles but at a low level. Protection can be provided if covered and Steve has kindly offered to provide this from spare pieces of lino. As with the shop, the new heating will need to be adjusted to react to the changes in outside temperatures. Sue has highlighted holes in the walls in the cupboards.

Ways to attract more women to the gym are to be investigated.

Del looked for an opportunity to access money from the Co-op Community Fund, but with only just being made aware of this recently it was too late to sign in before the deadline. Opportunities for this funding for the future will hopefully present themselves, as will that from Sport England. Apparently the Community Foundation will look at funding from across the board and will match organisers up to specific, relevant funders.

**Markets:**A few stallholders have called off for the Jubilee market this weekend, but many are still attending. The last market was rather short of helpers when it came to dismantle the market and more help is needed.

**Woodlands:**Brian sent a thorough report which highlighted recent efforts by his amazing team. The rose arch has been erected and funded by the County Council and the Parish Council. The group are asking for some roses and BCG agreed to fund their purchase.

**Museum:**The Parish Council has kindly given a grant of £250 for the Arts Festival and the Museum is temporarily holding the money. Jodi has applied for other funding too.

**Safeguarding:**Both Sue and Jane attended an introductory meeting on this and Sue will now do an Awareness Course. Each sub group of BCG has to think about these issues, the Museum and the Woodlands have already forwarded their Safeguarding Policy. Each volunteer will eventually need to read the safeguarding policy and sign it and it will need to be prominently displayed. Gym users will need to be alerted to these issues too, and some thought needs to go into producing the gym safeguarding policy.

**Any other business:**

The Extraordinary General Meeting relating to BCG changing its charity status to become Incorporated, will be held on the 29th June at Bell View. We need as many Trustees to attend as possible and there should be no fewer than ten people present to agree and sign the Minutes. Marc has kindly offered to take the minutes for this meeting.

Pauline suggested that the meeting with the Reading Room Trustees should take place immediately after the EGM.

Amanda has set up a drop box account and we will all be furnished with the passwords to be able to send documents to it.

Carole and Mandy have planted up the planters in the village.

**Date of next meeting:**Wednesday 13th July, 7.00 pm at Bell View