**Belford Community Group Meeting**

**Belford Community Shop**

 **on**

**Tuesday 12 March 2019**

**Apologies for absence:** Denise Hiscox, Susan Husband, Amanda White, Doug Renton, William McLaren.

**Present:** Pauline Tucker (Chair), Dave Ogden (Treasurer), Phil Dodd

(Secretary), Val Barnsley, Ruth Dodd, Dennis Cromarty, Fiona Renner–Thompson, Ian Hodgson, Karon Ives

**Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed by all and signed by Pauline

**Matters arising from last meeting:** None

**Finance:** Dave presented a separate report, which basically shows an income of £2556.10 and expenditure of £2995.48. The biggest outgoing being a grant made to Bell View for a gym instructor. The sum of £610.79 (via C Wilford) was for the Community Cinema, which is independent of BCG.

**Shop:** Val had little to report, but did add that once again our thanks are due to Lynne for organising the rota. It is a healthy position to be in, but the shop is currently being swamped with stock, which at times is challenging to manage. Cards had been sent to Hazel and Ann, wishing them speedy recuperations.

**Markets:** A new marquee has been ordered – a stronger and more fire resistant model, making the cost of £669.99, which is more expensive than expected. Storage boxes will be needed too. The first market is on Saturday 4 May.

**Museum:** Karon reported that there is £9300 in the museum account, but several cheques had yet to clear (including one for some new software). There was still £700 of a grant to be spent. Some World War 2 medals have been donated and the school records have been typed up. No news as yet about the problems with the electricity meters.

**Gym:** Ian had a meeting with Guy (Parish Councillor) and Michael from Northumberland County Council. The County Council does not think the gym can be gifted to the Parish Council and even if it was, there would be issues with insurance and the upkeep of the building. So it would seem that the Community Group and the County Council would need to look at the cost of these. If the County Council lease the building to BCG, will this be at the market rate and can the BCG afford this? It was felt that the Community Group would not want to take on responsibility for the neighbouring skate park. New equipment is urgently needed and the trustees felt that this should be ordered as the gym ownership issues may take some time to sort out. Above all the BCG feels that the gym is one of their priorities.

It was agreed that following a request from Adam Fletcher, permission should be given to the Belford Players to temporarily store their staging in the Gym kitchen. A cleaner has been hired to clean the gym.

**Woodlands:** Dennis reported that things are fine at the woodlands. Brian and Elisabeth have done some clearing and thanks go to them. A date needs to be fixed to get a crowd of people together for a day to work on the woods.

**Strategy Group:** Val and Amanda met to talk about this and Val agreed to send out information. It was felt that every business, etc should be put on the website, and if they didn’t want to be included they should opt out, but should also say they wanted to be in. Information on doctors and hospitals (Berwick and Alnwick) should also be on the website, partly to help visitors.

**Village Hall update:** Dave attended a meeting and there seems to be enough interest in the whole issue. All options are being examined and the cost of buying the Ferguson Hall was one of these options. At the meeting Dave informed those present that the BCG was keen to off support financially by means of expenses as they explored every possible avenue.

**Correspondence:** Bell View thanked the BCG for their recent grant.

**New trustees:** Tracy Bell to attend a future meeting with a view to possibly becoming a trustee. Victoria Mundy is another possibility and Ian Hodgson too.

**Arts Festival:** It was felt that Jody was doing a great job and the Dance part of the festival was to be organised by Chris Algar and Music by Ros McHugh. There are going to be raffle tickets printed to raise money for the festival. Jody asked if we’d like an events licence and we agreed that was a good idea. Alan Spillet is to do risk assessments for the festival, even though some venues already have these in place.

**Next meeting:** Monday 15 April, 6.30 in the Community Shop