**Belford Community Group Meeting**

**Held at Belford Community Shop**

**Monday 15 April 2019**

**Apologies for absence:** Denise Hiscox, William McLaren, Fiona Renner – Thompson, Karon Ives

**Present:** Pauline Tucker (Chair), Dave Ogden (Treasurer), Phil Dodd (Secretary), Val Barnsley, Ruth Dodd, Dennis Cromarty, Ian Hodgson, Doug Renton, Susan Husband, Amanda White

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

**Matters arising from the last meeting:** None

**Finance:** Dave presented a separate report, which basically shows an income of £3113.54 and expenditure of £2582.91. The biggest outgoings for the month were the cost of a new marquee for the markets, and an electricity bill for 4 months for the shop. The sum of £900 has already been collected from artists as their contributions to the Arts Festival. There is a balance of about £48000, with a generous donation of £1000 that has come from the URC.

**Shop:** Although the shop looks good in general the area around the door needs some attention and another notice board is needed inside the shop. Sharon has made a good job of the Easter display. Takings are starting to rise, so everything is promising.

**Markets:** The first market is on Saturday 4 May with a second one three weeks later on Saturday 25 May. The posters have been printed and most have been distributed. A team of helpers have been assembled for marquee erection, etc. starting at 7.30 each Saturday.

**Museum:** Very quiet at present. Not all the grant money was spent, so some has had to be returned

**Gym:** We are really no further on with the ownership of the building. There was some discussion about subscription group discounts for groups of say, 10 or more people, but it was agreed that due to the present situation, this could not be agreed.

The hedges around the side and front of the gym need cutting and a quote of £120 has been made to do the work. The trustees thought this was reasonable and the quote was accepted. Similarly the grass needs cutting and Ian is going to look into this.

**Woodlands:** There are still issues with the memorials in the garden, which the trustees feel look a mess. Pauline is to talk to a person on the council about this and Doug consulted too. Perhaps a small bush or a plaque would be more appropriate.

**Strategy Group:** At present Val has looked in detail at what we already do. Thanks to Val for her work on this and we will look at this again at the next meeting, with an emphasis on the section which deals with grants for community projects.

Amanda suggested an annual meeting involving the Community Group, charitable groups, parish council, parochial council, etc. to strengthen relationships.

Tracy is to be contacted to find out if there is still work to be done on the Play Park, how well it is used (especially since the Middle School closure), publicise the existence of the Park (maybe through pictures in the press – Fiona?) and special events (e.g. a Teddy Bears Picnic)

**Village Hall update:** Dave and 2 others visited the Middle School site. The hall would be absolutely ideal – has all amenities necessary and would include the caretaker’s house. Unfortunately two offers have already been received and the group do not have the necessary funding. A sum in the region of £350000 to £375000 is needed.

The Community Group is paying for the printing of questionnaires to be delivered to all houses in the village and surrounding areas to find out what local residents want from a hall. Our thanks go to all involved in the Village Hall project for their hard work.

**Arts Festival:** Jodie is presenting regular updates. Music, venues, 45 artists, films, market have all been sorted. With just one or two bits still to be finalised, but generally everything is looking good.

The project with Bell View and the School is going well. The fundraising at the musical event in the Black Swan was disappointing. A Lottery Grant application has been submitted. The Co-op manager is keen. The next meeting for organisers is on Wednesday 17 April and a volunteer night (to help run the festival) is on Tuesday 23 April. The Toy Shop is to be tidied up.

**Any other business:** A grant request was received from Bell View for £700 to help replace an industrial cooker. The Trustees agreed to this request, particularly as Bell View do so much for the village.

The Cadets are to look after the planters outside the Co-op and thanks to Doug for painting the planters around the village.

Amanda is to use photos of the village, from Cameraderie and Phyl Carruthers on both the Village Website and Facebook page.

**Next meeting: Monday 20 May 2019 at 6.30**