**Belford Community Group Meeting**

**Thursday 3 January 2019**

 **Farmhouse B&B, West Street, Belford**

**6.30 pm**

**Apologies for absence:** Denise Hiscox, Ian Hodgson, Susan Husband, Judith Thurland

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

(Secretary), Amanda White, Val Barnsley, Ruth Dodd, Doug Renton, Dennis Cromarty, William McLaren, Fiona Renner -Thompson

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

**Matters arising from last meeting:** None

**Finance:** Details of incomings and outgoings can be found on Dave’s financial statement – with £6407.74 coming into the account and £3294.17 having been spent.

There was a late bill from Seahouses Accountancy. This company no longer exists, so the Community Group are now looking for new accountants.

There was a short discussion about insurance for the fireworks, which the Community Group is not responsible for.

**Shop:** Val reported that that the position of the shop was good, although perhaps, one or two more volunteers would be useful, particularly in the afternoon. Sharon has re-done the shop window display in preparation for the re-opening of the shop next week after the Christmas/New Year break.

**Markets:** The Christmas market was a great success. The dates were provided for markets in 2019. Tables from the Ferguson Hall are to be gifted to us. Bell View has been booked, tentatively, with Paul, for the Christmas market in 2019.

**Museum/Reading Room:** The museum is to be decorated soon. Jane Bowen has been invited to our next meeting to discuss the relationship between BCG and the Museum.

**Gym:** No one is being encouraged to join the gym while the status of the building is in doubt. There has been no further news about the Gym building in relation to Northumberland County Council. Pauline will contact them again to try and establish if any progress has been made regarding the building.

**Woodlands:** Doug would like to encourage the First School to come to the Woodlands (they have been a couple of times), however he would appreciative knowing about their visit in advance. Helen Ellis (Friendship for ages) is to be asked to approach the Head Teacher about this.

**Strategy Group:** This group is to be set up to see how it is operating and to look at projects both within the group and externally. We would be looking at forming a small group for this made up of 2 or 3 current trustees and 2 or 3 from elsewhere. Pauline to talk about this and possibly involve the likes of Treelocate or Birdsalls.

Some mention was made of the future of a village hall and Ferguson Hall in particular. If a small group was set up to consider all these issues, then it might be possible for the Community Group to provide a small amount of funding. It was felt that it was going to be hard how to plant the seeds for such a group to be formed.

Phil is to approach Tracy Bell with a view to getting her involved in one of the new groups being set up.

**Arts Festival:** dates are to be 13 and 14 July. It has been agreed that this should be self-funding, including the contribution to be made by the Co-op.

Judy and Jodi Mudd are to be the main organisers and for them to be paid for 16 days work at the going rate, and this is to be paid for from the Co-op money. They would also produce a handout giving details about the festival. Val agreed to look after Arts Festival funding.

**AOB:**

1. Army cadets to look after planters. Pauline to try and establish contact.
2. Snooker club, it has finally been decided to give them 25% of what they requested, to both sides satisfaction. Problems about the heating and the lighting for the snooker room are to be ironed out in the meeting between the BCG and Reading Room trustees, as mentioned earlier in the minutes.
3. Postcards of the village are just to be sold just in the Newsagents, and not the museum.
4. Letters to be sent out to thank the businesses that donated prizes for the Christmas market tombola.
5. Sue Smith has received an email from a visitor to say how good the New Year fireworks were.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 7 February, 6.30 in the Community Shop**