**Belford Community Group Meeting**

**Bell View**

**Monday 5 November 2018**

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

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

(Secretary), Susan Husband, Amanda White, Val Barnsley, Judith Thurland, Ruth Dodd, Doug Renton, Ian Hodgson, Dennis Cromarty

**Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed

**Matters arising from last meeting:** None

**Finance:** Details of incomings and outgoings can be found on Dave’s financial statement – but £3356.60 has come into the account and £3917.82 has been spent. The shop takings have been high this time, and thanks are due to Sharon Spillet and others for looking out the autumn stock, which has proved popular.

**Shop:** We were informed that the new signs are now completed. The Community shop committee is a little short on numbers and, with a view to having a couple of extra members, and several people are going to be approached. There will be a meeting of the above mentioned shop committee in the next couple of weeks.

**Markets:** The Christmas market will be held on Saturday 24 November from 10.00 to 12.30 in the Ferguson Hall. Ruth and Phil stated that they have managed to squeeze everyone in, and even with a high demand for tables there is still one table available. Posters were given out. Setting up the hall will be from 4.00 on the day before, and stallholders can set up from 9.00 am on Saturday. The shop has done a fantastic job in collecting items for the tombola, a popular stall. Pauline is to check that the WI is doing refreshments. Amanda will post details of market on Facebook.

Ruth mentioned her desire to have an additional small marquee (4m x 8m) and a go-ahead was given for one to be purchased, along with a vermin proof box.

**Museum:** A report on recent activity was received and it was noted that to remember the 100th anniversary of the ceasing of World War 1 hostilities the Belford Players are performing a play written specially to feature many of the victims of the war from Belford.

A suggestion was made that postcards of the village should be available for sale in the museum. Phil said he’d approach Sue Dyer and Elizabeth Taylor to see if they could supply some.

**Gym:** A meeting has been held with a council representative, re- gym ownership. The representative visited the gym for the first time. Although there had been a suggestion that the Parish Council were to be given the gym, this is not necessarily so. The representative said we’d probably have to rent the gym at a commercial rate, which could be expensive. This issue may take some time to be resolved, as the skate park, parking and the fire station access have to be taken into account. A worst-case scenario may mean we have to pay for gym rental from the time since the school closed. It was agreed to ring fence some funds in case this happens. The Trustees are actively discussing the whole issue of the gym and Steve was thanked for his work in keeping the gym running.

**Woodlands:** Thanks were made to the 10 or so people who turned out to tidy the woodlands on Sat 27 October, and also to Brian, John and Colin for their continued efforts to push on with the work, which has made a big difference. Thanks to Amanda for providing refreshments. Doug agreed to paint all 9 planters and in the New Year and we will discuss the future of the planters outside the Co-op

**Grant Requests:**

1. **Pensioners’ Party:**  the request for £250 was agreed.
2. **New Year Fireworks/Parade:**  £600 was asked for and the trustees agreed to £450 to be added to the £150 from the Rotary**.** The Community Group understand that their contribution does not mean they are responsible for safety at the event
3. **Village Children’s Pantomime:** The trustees agreed to contribute £450 to the funding of this event, as we have done in the past. However Dave is to discuss future funding with George and perhaps some payment might be made by contributions from parents and the school.
4. **Friendship for ages:** It was agreed to pay £250 towards this (one third of cost) – starting in January 2019
5. **Snooker table:** We felt that we would like Richard Hearne to meet with us along with someone from the museum. Phil agreed to ask Richard any ongoing questions re the table.

**AOB:**

1. The future of the URC church and Ferguson hall was discussed briefly, following a letter sent by Audrey. It was decided to ask her to the next meeting when more information should be available
2. A wreathe from the Community Group is to be laid on Sunday 11 November at the war memorial
3. Concern about lack of some road markings since the road re-surfacing. The Parish Council to be approached.
4. Cinema Screening on Saturday 17 November
5. Amanda to compile a list of all the grants that the Community Group has made recently and put them on the website. Also some idea of what is required from people when they make a funding request.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 3rd January 2019 at Dave and Val’s house