**Belford Community Group Meeting**

**Belford Community Shop**

**Monday 2nd July 2018**

**Apologies For Absence:** William McLaren, Les Carr, Susan Husband, Ruth Dodd, Phil Dodd, Dennis Cromarty, Amanda White

**Present:** Pauline Tucker (Secretary), Dave Ogden (Treasurer), Val Barnsley, Judith Thurland, Doug Renton, Ian Hodgson, Denise Hiscox

**Minutes of the last Meeting:** Agreed.

**Matters Arising from the last Meeting:** None

Finance: Dave handed out his report and commented that the shop takings look low due to the monies not yet being banked. Incoming monies from gym membership £750, Co-Op Community Grant £570 and the Parish Council for £200 have been received with expenditure for Jodie Larder for Belford Arts Festival £750 and Malcolm Foster £1100 for decorating the outside of the Community Shop.

The Treasurer also had receipt of a cheque in the sum of £300 from Les Carr for the purchase of the greenhouse.

It was unanimously agreed that the Treasurer’s Report will now go onto the website.

The Trustees would like to express their thanks to Dave and Val for their hard work with our finances, which is very time consuming for them, on top of running their business.

**Shop:** Val advised that the notice board for the group had still not been put up and she asked Ian if he was able to help with this, which he agreed to do, as well as fixing a hook to a broom shank to assist with getting the awning down at the front of the shop. It was confirmed that there is still a decent number of volunteers, but Lynne is still doing a lot of switching around for holiday cover etc. Many thanks go to Chris and Ron for the coffee morning they hosted, which was thoroughly enjoyable.

Lettering for the shop front should be completed shortly, and in time for the festival. Fiona ran through what the wording would be: i.e. Local charity, supporting local charities.

A**rts Festival:**

Children’s Trail – Val was asked what artwork would be going up in the hairdressers? One or two pictures will be put in there, but should they want additional artwork this can be arranged.

Fiona confirmed that they had distributed 2000 leaflets in two days. Fantasy Prints aren’t standing by the price of the original quote. She is now looking at having more printed i.e. £170 for £2000. She also has another place in mind, which is slightly cheaper. Belford Community Group will be added to the sponsors list on advertising material, as they are the main sponsor and organising body. Martha Gothorp has done an excellent job with the website.

Fiona also confirmed that the cadets should be in attendance on the Sunday working as volunteers. Volunteers are still needed for brochure sales, first aid and two venue co-ordinators and someone to help on Saturday evening. A schedule has been produced by Fiona that will be sent out by email for people to fill in.

Bell View has offered their small mini bus to take people around the village and have volunteer drivers. Fiona will see Ian about the larger mini bus. She is aiming to hold a festival meeting on Monday 9th July at 3 pm.

In order to maximise fundraising, there will be donation buckets as well as a raffle and she has purchased a print. Fiona may do a supper to raise funds for Audrey the bus to cover costs.

**Markets:** No report as Phil and Ruth absent.

Gym: It was confirmed that we are no further forward regarding the lease arrangements for the gym building. Ian and Steve will do the cleaning of the gym until further notice. Collette has donated a vacuum cleaner for use in the gym. Membership has dipped slightly which may be due to the School closure and the uncertainty about the building. Once we know what is happening we will have a re-launch.

**The Jubilee Woodland:** Doug confirmed that everything is still going well. A teacher with school children who appreciated the space visited the woodland.

Dennis sent in the following report:

**The Community Wood:** A tree fell during the last big storm and apparently just missed a lady on the high street. Someone got the council out and they moved it and piled it on top of the dog bin squashing bushes etc. They did come back days later and chopped and chipped it but have left some really big logs. I know that one has disappeared and expect the others vanish. Pat and George have been down to tidy up around the dog area, but more needs to be done around the wood, its just getting everyone together. Everything has just taken off. There are bags of cuttings Pat and George have left with the hope of the council man who empty's the bins will take away, he normally does.  The long Beech Hedge at the side of the path leading up towards the doctors is causing a problem by encroaching onto the path making it difficult walking up there. I suppose its the Parish Council who should be contacting the owner/owners who have always kept that hedge trimmed but this year has not touched it. I don't know who owns that, its obviously belongs to some of the houses on Dinningside. Thanks to Les for repairing the seat.

**AOB:**

**Pauline:** A letter was received from Les Carr resigning from the post of Chairman with immediate effect. The Trustees would like to thank Les for his hard work over the last year or so. It was agreed that Pauline, as Vice-Chairman, would step up to Chairman until the AGM, and Phil as Vice-Secretary may be asked to help with secretarial work if required.

**Museum Report:**

**Commemorating World War One:** Good progress has been made in this last month in fulfilling some of the objectives of the **Belford, A Rural Area at War** HLF Project. Museum-arranged visits took place to the ‘Aftermath’ Exhibition at the KOSB museum in Berwick Barracks; the Fusiliers’ Museum World War One Exhibition at Alnwick, where the curator kindly provided us with material relating to members of the Gordon family of Belford who served both in the Boer War and in the First World War; and to the Alnwick Castle Exhibition on the experiences of men associated with the Castle who served in the War - from the Duke’s sons to the plumber’s labourer. All three exhibitions were of high quality and moving.

A research visit to Barrasford also enabled us to obtain a digital copy of the unpublished autobiography of Guy Leather, younger son of Gerard Leather of Middleton Hall. This provides a detailed account of his World War One service with the RNAS, but also from Belford’s point of view interesting accounts of the Middleton Estate both before and immediately after World War One.

**Displays:** There has been a change in the costume cabinet, with the figure to the Bondager removed to be replaced by the World War 1 nurse’s uniform worn by Daphne Leather (sister of Guy).

**Visitors:** The number of visitors is gradually increasing as the summer progresses, and comments remain very positive.

**Accessions:** This month’s accessions include digital copies of material relating to the failed sale of outlying parts of the Middleton Hall Estate in 1912; a copy of the current Middleton Hall Sale Catalogue; maps relating to an abortive plan in 1865 to reclaim the land between Holy Island and the mainland; and a series of redundant trophies recovered from the Community Club.

**Community Archive:** The Islandshire Community Archive is now live.

**Grant Requests:**

**Bell View:** A grant request for £1750 was applied for to assist with transporting people to various appointments and to bring them to Bell View as well as visiting friends and family, which will help alleviate loneliness and social isolation. The Trustees unanimously agreed to this request.

**Museum:** A request was made for the printing of leaflets for the museum, which has been done in the past. The Trustees feel that if the Museum has enough funds, they should have these printed themselves, but if there were a lack of funds we would support this request.

**St. Mary’s School:** There will be an end of year service for anyone connected to the School. Denise is trying to compile a memories booklet that will be something for people to keep. Current children are writing things that are important to them. Denise is looking for people who were first to attend the school alongside those who will be the last. Some families may have had a connection with the School from the start. She is looking for funds of approximately £200-300. The cost of the keepsake will be £1 per copy. Funding may not be needed but she would like it as a back up. Agreed.

**Mini Bus:** When asked, the School confirmed that they have official ownership of the bus and were currently responsible for all the running costs with the exception of the three monthly safety checks which BCG have continued to pay for as a donation.

The School offered the bus to both Belford Community Group and Bell View. We as a group were advised that we could not assume the legal and financial responsibilities of running, or being responsible for, community transport and the School donated the bus to Bell View.

**Transparency:** Our Trustees and Volunteers work very hard, but we understand that there is always room for improvement and we can do better. Pauline will produce a notice to go alongside the Village Newsletter giving full details of grants given and expenditure for the last year. The Minutes and Treasurer’s report will go onto the new village website, with a hard copy available in the shop.

**Date of Next Meeting: 6th August 2018 – Belford Community Shop**