**BELFORD COMMUNITY GROUP MEETING**

**MONDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Held at the Market Cross Guest House at 2pm**

**Trustees Present:**Pauline Tucker (Chair), Phil Dodd (Secretary), Dave Ogden (Treasurer), Ruth Dodd, Amanda White, Del Hughes, Val Barnsley

**Others Present:**Steve White, Jane Cowley

**Apologies for absence:** William McLaren, Susan Husband

**Minutes of Last Meeting:**Everyone agreed the Minutes were accurate, and Pauline signed them on behalf of the group.

**Matters arising:**Dealt with later in the meeting

**Finance:**The shop continues to do well with £170 collected from stallholders for the two markets. Expenditure was higher than income.

Income was mainly from the shop takings and gym memberships. Expenditure main items were for yearly insurance premium, electricity bill (shop) and the Silver Sneakers grant for Bell View.

Dave is going to see the accountant tomorrow regarding the annual accounts.

**Shop:**The takings continue to be steady. Good quality donations of saleable items are being received. Those involved with the shop are trying to improve recycling. Too many items need to be recycled because they cannot, for various reasons, be sold. It be would be useful if some of us could help by taking some of these to the recycling centre when we are going. The Trustees feel that the whole issue of unsuitable items being brought to the shop could be mentioned in the newsletter.

**Gym:**The emails we have received show that NCC have agreed to virtually everything we asked for. They will take out the break clause, extend the lease to 20 years, have agreed to move the bushes and will request Rentokil to do a survey.   They haven’t really taken on board the issues about trustee liability and Del is talking to the solicitor about this. We have also had emails from the insurers saying our policy doesn’t cover us if the group becomes insolvent, but as long as we have proper building insurance it should be OK. We just need to show we are moving on gradually with doing the work needed, which we believe to be generally manageable over the course of a 20-year lease. We probably need to look at grants too, e.g. those offered by Screwfix.

Our memberships are still good value and might need reviewing once improvements are evident.

Jane suggested specific events could be organised - perhaps a trainer for particular groups, but this has to be given careful considered. Perhaps Active Northumberland could be contacted.

It was suggested that Belford Surgery could put forward a few people for free membership to help address health problems. All these ideas could be considered in the future.

The next stage is to get the lease signed, and Del was thanked for all her hard work regarding this.

**Markets:**The response to both markets was very positive, and stallholders made good sales and money was collected for BCG. The Christmas market will be at Bell View on 27 November from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. The shop volunteers are preparing a tombola stall for this event.

**Any Other Business:**

Dave confirmed that the War Memorial wall is now fixed

Pauline confirmed that the AGM  will be held at Bell View on Wednesday 3 November at 6.30 pm.

Thanks have been received from Bell View for the grant to fund their Silver Sneakers project.

Brian Rogers reported that the Council are cutting the grass around the gym but not removing the cuttings. 6 volunteers turned up to collect it.

**The next meeting will be held on** **Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 1.15 pm at Farmhouse Guest House.**