**Belford Community Group**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on**

**Wednesday 4th April 2022 at 6.00 pm**

 **At The Community Shop**

**Trustees Present:**Pauline Tucker (Chairman),Phil Dodd (Secretary), Ruth Dodd, Del Hughes

**Others Present:**William McLaren (President), Jane Cowley, Marc Johnson (Northumberland CVA)

**Apologies for absence:**Amanda White, Dave Ogden, Val Barnsley and Susan Husband

**Minutes of Last Meeting:**Everyone agreed they were accurate, and Pauline signed them.

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

**Finance:**The finances are healthy. This month income was far greater than expenditure. The main items of income were shop sales, gym membership and Artist fees for the Arts Festival. Water and electricity bills made up much of the outgoings along with the cost of strimmer training.

 **Visit and discussions with Marc Johnson from Northumberland CVA:**Mark provided a very clear and concise summary of the objects for the Community group and everyone was given a copy of this. One of the most urgent matters to be resolved is the relationship between the Museum and the Community Group. At the moment the Museum is using our Charity number but because the museum has their own management, Marc felt that the BCG has little control over what they do. He made it very clear that there is a risk issue to the BCG Trustees if another charity uses its charity number e.g. to apply for grants, etc. If it is not resolved then Museum issues might rebound on the BCG as a whole, e.g. a building fire. This is an urgent issue and Marc said he was happy to send a letter to Karon explaining this. Marc suggested the BCG could offer support in the separation of the museum from the BCG whereby they could apply for grants in their own right. They would need 3 trustees. Currently they have only got two, to complete the charity registration. A discussion on the objects sheet followed and the trustees need to examine these carefully, although at a first glance they seemed to be fairly comprehensive. After the Trustees have completed the process, Marc will be in a position to move things forward with the Charity Commission. The objects need to show specific purposes and not be just generic as in shown on Marc’s sheet.

The Constitution will need to be firmed up, particularly the need to make a decision on the length of terms of trustees and how many trustees we have. The following are some suggestions: Chair person 3 years, maximum 2 terms before a one-year break. The first trustees under the new status would have staggered terms e.g. one year - Val, Dave and Amanda, two years - Pauline, Phil and Ruth, three years - Del, Jane and Sue. Thereafter length of term would be three years. A one-year break was suggested after two terms.

Marc suggested that a small amount of money might be made available for youth activities, perhaps with BCG providing money for an organiser.

We will need a safeguarding policy and Marc felt that he should be able to find one for us. The gym is an obvious place where this safeguarding policy would be essential.

**Grant Applications:**

£500 grant to Bell View for their Jubilee celebrations was agreed.

Bell View are looking to have a village electricity generator to provide a back up for heating, food preparation, etc to support people in the village in the event of the same problems arising as with Storm Arwen back in November. The Trustees felt that the Northern Power Group should help finance this and BCG would provide any shortfall in money for this as we consider it to be a very valuable asset for the village. A grant of £4000 was agreed for half of the monies required.

Through Nikki Dunn the village Jubilee Group asked for funds for the Jubilee street party and the Trustees felt that they would provide up to £2000 for this and that, as for every grant funded, we’d need receipts

**Shop:** Quite a few volunteers have Covid at present, so the shop may have to close temporarily. The new heating for the shop and gym is to be installed on 25 April.

**Gym:**The first meeting of the working group with Del, Mick and Carol Parkin, Steve and Dave took place on April 11.

**Markets:**The first outdoor market of the year will be on Saturday 30 April

**Woodlands:**Brian sent a detailed report and management report.  Craig has been emailed to have the woodlands added to our insurance (along with the Arts Festival). There was a suggestion that individual event insurance might be cheaper.

**Any other business:**

We are still looking for new trustees.

The Trustees agreed to take a half-page BCG advert in the Belford Show programme.

 **Date of next two meetings**

Wednesday 27 April 1.00 pm at Market Cross Guest House

Monday 30 May 12.30 pm at Farm House Guest House, West Street