**Belford Community Group Meeting**

**On Zoom**

**Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 6.00  pm**

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

William McLaren (President)

**Apologies for absence:**Denise Hiscox.

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

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

**Finance:**The electricity bill has now been paid and as the meter has now been read this should be accurate. We have also paid a 50% contribution to the Reading Room electricity bill.

Dave confirmed that payments have been paid to Fiona Renner Thompson for the Arts Festival website fees and to Carruthers Leisure for the rental of the storage units. However, the COVID grant from Northumberland County Council has covered these outgoings.

**Shop:**The various people involved have agreed (via email) not to reopen the shop until June 21st. By this time everything will have been sorted in the shop. Lynne, one of the stalwarts of the shop has fallen and fractured her leg, so good wishes were sent to her for a speedy recovery.

With regard to the shop frontage, Del has received a quote of £2580 from Shaun Walton. His work would involve stripping back the old paint to a sound surface, treating the sill (and anything else with rot) with a two-part resin, then undercoat and topcoats. This repainting would not include the signage itself, as the sun seems to affect it and perhaps a new form of signage needs to be used. “Vital Signs” suggest an aluminium or acrylic be used for the base of the sign. Aluminium seems to be favoured as it is no more expensive and should last between 7 and 10 years.  Vital Signs would do the fitting and then seal the aluminium. No exact cost for this at present, but it is to be expected to be under £500.

All this work should be pushed on with in time for the shop reopening. With the NCC grant and start up grant we should be able to accept the quote. Thanks to Del for her efforts with this.

Volunteers are to be asked help get the shop ready, but people should be asked to hold back their donations for sale in the shop, for the moment. Judith is to be asked for her help to move the Christmas tree.

**Gym:**If we do take on the lease (which we think is the best option), we should need to move on with the re-decoration, and more discussions with Michael Gilroy about the conditions of the lease will be needed. Steve felt that getting members to help with the re-decoration in exchange for free membership would be a good idea. With the relaxation of some parts of the Lockdown we should be able to re-open the gym on April 12th.

**Woodlands:**With up to six people working on the woodland regularly they are looking very good. Thanks to all involved.

**Museum:**As the museum is part of the BCG we need to support it, and this would include reviewing the situation with the electricity. The museum does not have a steady income. The problem with damp has to be addressed (this would prevent the re-opening of the museum) and the heaters need to be replaced. Ultimately Karon would like the museum to stand on its own two feet, financially. William reminded us that in the past both Eric and Fiona had agreed the museum should not pay rent. The snooker club pays for their own electricity. Karon has plans to expand the museum into the area that currently has windows but no roof. It was agreed that we should keep in touch with Karon and give her as much support as possible.

Amanda mentioned that electricity supplies to the shop, gym and museum continue to be a problem and perhaps they all need to be looked at by the person that Steve has coming to see him about electricity. We should consider green energy grants. The museum should be getting its own COVID grant from Northumberland County Council.

**Markets:**Outside markets are planned for Saturday 31 July and Saturday 28 August, COVID permitting. We will try and book Bell View for a Christmas market on the last Saturday in November.

**Arts Festival:**Jodie is going to put something on, but it may be a virtual event, with the hope that things may be back to normal in 2022.

Fiona set up an email account for the festival and we agreed to continue funding this at £9.60 per month.

Jodie is to get 2 days of paid work for the festival this year to keep momentu for the festival.

**Any Other Business:**

Belford Show Committee has asked £600 towards this years show. This was agreed and the Trustees thought that we might be able to give more if we get an NCC start up grant.

War Memorial: The wall behind the War Memorial is in need of repair. One quote of £746.40 was received from Jamie Young and another from Mallaburn for £1620. The Trustees agreed to support this request and Dave will liaise with Kerry Noble about payment.

Amanda thought we should put out a newsletter for June/July, so that individuals in the village know what events are taking place. Pauline is to ask William if the Church is able to continue printing the newsletter, and also if Maureen will continue to send the newsletters to the volunteers to distribute to the village.

Amanda felt that a volunteers evening should take place at Bell View in October, as there appears to be a significant number of newcomers to the village.

Jane from Bell View thanked the BCG for their contribution to the food bank. The trustees felt that we should provide more funds for this in the future.

**The next meeting will be held, via Zoom, on Wednesday 28 April 2021 at 6.00**