

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SCO47553

Committee Meeting

2.00pm Monday 7th November 2019

Town Hall, New Galloway

Minutes

1. Present: Ray Bridgeman, David Hardy (Acting Vice-Chair), Tom Carlyle, Bob Glaister, Ann Glaister.

In attendance: David Link - Third Sector Engagement Officer for the Stewartry

2. Apologies for absence: Ros Hill, Sue vest, Ingrid Gemmell

3. Minutes of meeting of 16th September 2019 were approved.

4. Matters arising: Noted that lunch prices had been discussed, but it was not clear whether a decision had been made. It would be good to have that decided in time to be implemented in January. **(AG to check with RH)**. Also noted that the Business Plan and the Feasibility Study had not yet been discussed in detail. Agreed that we should put this on the next agenda as a main item. **(AG)**

5. Chair's report: Noted that Ros had met with Grace Cardozo or Sleeping Giants and with Alan Smith of GCAT and that a key focus had been the need for collaboration.

6. Financial report: This had been circulated in advance and was noted: Balance of £10,107, of which approximately £8k is restricted; but noted that a further £4,333 had now been received from Architectural Heritage and £1,400 paid out to settle with Creetown Initiative.

7. Reports from those in attendance: David Link suggested, following our training session with Christine Clarke on Code of Governance, that we should make funders aware that we are adopting the Scottish Government Code of Governance for the Third Sector and are working towards compliance.

The next third sector road show will take place at The Smiddy in Balmaclellan on Nov 28th. (As we are all aware, lack of full accessibility makes it impossible to book such events in the Town Hall.) These events are a good opportunity for groups to meet and compare notes.

A new concept of 'key partnerships' is being delivered. David suggested he might work with one of LING's Charity Trustees to explain the concept, and present recommendation to the LING's Board. LING to consider and come back to David if we wish to take this up.

Might an 'Association of Village Halls' be worth resurrecting? Currently no register exists, no centralised booking system for external bodies. May be opportunities for linking and co-operating

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across a number of areas with economies of scale e.g. for insurance. Members of the Board were interested to watch this space. David made the point that village/town halls may vary but often represent something significant for the communities in terms of shared beliefs and values that is bigger than bricks and mortar.

8. Reports from Sub-committees:

i) Celebratory Committee – Joan Walker’s report had been circulated and was welcomed. It was noted how much work had gone into planning the concert and producing the Christmas Events brochure and it was agreed the secretary should send them a note of appreciation and check whether help was sought for concert preparations. It was noted that several trustees were already going to deliver the events brochure around New Galloway and Ray and Avril would already be helping with Hall decorations in the Lesser Hall. **(AG)**

ii) Exploring New Galloway – In relation to the information drawn from the recent report to GGLP (courtesy of Jon Nimmo), David Hardy notified us of the appointment of the Loch Ken Development Officer, Barney Fryer. His role relates to promoting tourism and links with biosphere, environmental interests and sustainable communities. Barney would welcome input from LING and we might look for a date for discussion.

Separately, Ray Bridgeman let us know about old photographs of the Garroch Estate which are available in Dalry. These might connect usefully with the heritage project.

9. Asset Transfer:

Some related issues were discussed under this heading. In the context of ensuring we are well-advised in relation to Asset Transfer negotiations, contacts and connections are important.

David Hardy and Bob Glaister had both attended the Focus Group at the Smiddy, Balmaclellan, run by Sleeping Giants as part of their commissioned evaluation of ‘Connecting in Communities’. The evaluation was looking at how best to take the project forward after the Leader funding finishes next year but the concern of the focus group was particularly to consider the how problems of competition for funding might be addressed. How can organisations best liaise and work co-operatively. What are the opportunities and the fears? For example, the concern was expressed that the Town Hall might miss the boat by the time renovations had been achieved. It was felt that the survey questionnaire had been very GCAT focussed, but this meeting was taking a wider perspective on issues. A number of useful contacts were made which can be followed up **(BG and DH)**

On recommendation, an approach had been made to the Development Trusts Association (DTAs) for support. They are willing to consider us for membership and a meeting is proposed for the evening of 4th December when they will be in Castle Douglas. This was agreed as a date, possibly late afternoon as there is Zumba upstairs from 7.30! **(AG to confirm)**. It was noted that a key question was about how we relate as an organisation to GCAT and NGCE and that a focus for them is on supporting integration and co-operation rather than a proliferation of different groups. David Link can also offer support in relation to this issue, for example, as a starting point, helping groups to look at how aligned we are in terms of vision and goals. He also pointed out that, where organisations held different beliefs and values, it was OK for them not to directly to align with each other.

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However, there was still a need for them to collaborate and respect each other's roles in the community and to forge broader alliances. Agreed we need to look further at this and at who can best support us.

It was noted that D&G Council had now established that the Town Hall is designated as Common Good; that this will mean a delay in progressing Asset Transfer matters; that a notice had been posted as required on the Town Hall notice-board for 40 days to allow comment and questions from the community. It was agreed that we should make this public informally also and it should be posted on Facebook after checking draft with Board. **(AG)**. It was also noted that Ros had been in touch with the legal wing of DTAs to seek advice on a number of issues. A couple of other queries were voiced (What responsibility comes to us as a result of it being common good and what responsibilities do D&G bear currently in terms of maintenance of the building as a result of its common good status?) and these would be passed to Ros to add to her discussions. **(AG)**

10. Funding bids and priorities: A summary paper had been circulated and was noted. Tom Carlyle outlined the visit by Richardson and Starling to evaluate damp and infestation and the subsequent estimate they had sent. Agreed that the next steps were to seek builder's and roofer's estimates for necessary works as well as detailed estimates for lift installation, including structural survey if necessary.

In terms of fund-raising, it was agreed to continue to prioritise the installation of a lift and accessible toilets, with repair work as a close second and funding to employ someone also prioritised. Noted that to some extent it would depend on serendipity.

11. Glenkens Development Trust: It was noted that the Blackcraig Community Trust were now a Development Trust (although it was also noted that they would not meet the normal criteria for such). Ros, as a member, had indicated that they are seeking to put together a Community Development Plan to inform future funding decisions, and that they are seeking input from communities in relation to this. It was agreed to wait for Ros's return to discuss this more fully, but in the meantime, it was agreed that we could make the Community Consultation Report available to them. **(AG to pass this to Ros)**.

12. Publicity and Promotion:

i) Websites – noted that David Hardy and Ann Glaister are exploring options and seeking estimates and will report back

ii) Facebook – noted that after attending an event on managing our social media presence, we are trying to be more adventurous. The take-away message was that people are curious about what goes on behind the scenes so make it chatty and personal. Photos are always good.

13. New Galloway Story: Noted from Bob Glaister that he was working towards a meeting in the New Year, perhaps over a lunchtime on a Saturday. He would envisage inviting samples of relevant work from designers to spark discussion and was in discussion with Grace Cardozo about a potential role in handling the meeting for us.

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Noted from Ray Bridgeman that some old Garroch Estate photos have been shown in Dalry and would be worth pursuing. Also that on 27th November, Helen Keron has arranged for a school group to come to the Town Hall to hear about New Galloway of old. Avril Bridgeman will present her information of old shops and businesses. Bob will hope to attend. **(BG)**

14. Training and development opportunities:

i) A paper had been circulated and was noted. Re trustee training events that had been held, it was noted that Ann would provide a subsequent summary of key points and issues that had arisen for the next meeting. **(AG)**

ii) The outline plan was agreed and there was some discussion of who would be included. Agreed that a list would be circulated **(AG)** and subsequently checked with sub-committees. Proposed date Saturday 25th. Agreed to explore cold buffet option with Kenmure Arms.

15. LING activities, events and plans:

i) AGM – Thursday 27th February was agreed as the date, subject to checking with Catstrand. NGCE'S AGM is the following week. Agreed that we should circulate encouragement to people to think of standing for election in advance of AGM. **(AG)**

Agreed that the Annual Report should follow the same style and format.

ii) Internet Café proposal: - paper available to show planned sessions offered by Jackie Williams from CD starting in January. Eight sessions with a possibility of more later in the year. Cost is £1064.40 – to come from Co-op grant. Agreed. Ann will confirm with Jackie **(AG)**.

iii) Proposed photography exhibition: - Ray had approached Duncan McNaught – noted that this suggestion had not immediately been taken up but would be a possibility in the future.

iv) Spring Bingo dates – agreed that we would see how the Bingo session on Saturday goes, particularly numbers, before deciding whether to hold more events. Noted, however, that it is about more than just fund-raising.

v) Dates and workloads in the spring. Agreed to try to spread events out as far as possible.

16. Membership and Friends: Noted that three new Friends signed up at the Wine and Cheese event. Two new members were approved and two more are in train.

17. AOB: Noted that, following an approach from Sue Vest, LING were hosting a Home Energy Scotland event at lunches at 1.30 on 19th Nov. and posters were being put up. This was seen as a positive offer LING had been able to make on behalf of New Galloway.

13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 22nd January at 10 am.