

# Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

## Committee Meeting

14.3.2019

2.00pm, Town Hall, New Galloway

## Minutes

**1. Present:** Ros Hill, David Hardy, Debbie Hardy, Eleanor Wilson, Ray Bridgeman, Bob Glaister, Ann Glaister, Tom Carlyle. In attendance from 2.30 David Link and Sam Rushton

**2. Apologies for absence:** None received

**3. Election of office bearers and trustees:** following on from the AGM, the following election of officers was agreed: Ros Hill proposed as Chair by Ann Glaister, seconded by all; Ann Glaister proposed as Secretary by Ros Hill, seconded by Eleanor Wilson, Bob Glaister proposed as Treasurer by Ros Hill, seconded by Ray Bridgeman.

The co-option of Tom Carlyle as a Trustee was proposed by Ann Glaister and seconded by David Hardy. Tom was welcomed by the Board.

It was noted that Debbie Daly had stepped down at the AGM as she will be leaving New Galloway soon. She was thanked for her work which was much appreciated.

[8. Item 8 was also taken at this point as a confidential item before the attendees joined us at 2.30. See separate minute.]

**4. To approve minutes of meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019:** the minutes were approved as an accurate record

**5. Matters arising:** to consider any matters arising that are not already on the agenda

i) Re: paying for someone to open and close the Town Hall – an update: Noted that various pieces of advice had been collected, but more time was needed for the sub-group to consider these and bring a recommendation to the Board. Agreed this would come back to the next meeting. After some discussion, it was agreed that this was important to progress as an interim measure to relieve pressure on the Chair.

ii) Re honorarium for cleaning: It was agreed that an honorarium of £50 plus some flowers should be presented as an honorarium to Jane McQueen with our thanks for her help with keeping the hall cleaned. It was recognised that this was a substantial help which was very much appreciated.

iii) Re grant seeking for toilet adaptation, Ann had emailed Rachel Cringen, as Sue Vest had suggested, but had not response. Agreed, best to leave it now given time-scale, and see what architect suggests re overall changes.

**6. Chair's report:** Noted that the AGM had been successful and well-attended. Positive responses had also been received from those who sent apologies and were subsequently sent updates and copies of annual report.

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Some repairs have been carried out in hall. Concern still about exterior repainting. Ros will raise issue again with D&G.

Sunday afternoon family games left for now. Might try again next winter. Jigsaw still planned.

### 7. Treasurer's report:

LING bank balance currently at £20,462

A report had been made at the AGM in relation to the accounts

LING lunches now in the black

Sports evenings still bringing in substantial sum

Also Friends' donations

Gift aid draw down now operationalised

Water rates saga is over – last payment made and now covered by government scheme – still has to be claimed annually.

Ray has now been approved as a cheque signatory and Bob is to seek a debit card for LING.

Our first report to OSCR is due in July, covering 16 months from approval in July 17 to Oct 18. The treasurer is working on the figures after taking advice on how to approach it.

Noted - thanks to Richard Nash for his input on putting the accounts into shape this year and his intention to modify the headings to take account of new budget heads for this year and to simplify the process for us.

Also thanks noted to Maitland Rankin for stepping in as Examiner of Accounts. We hope he will be willing to continue in the role.

Invoicing 'operation catch-up' is in process and Eleanor is standing by ready to help with this as soon as Ros hands over to her.

### 9. Reports from those in attendance: Sam Rushton, Community Engagement Worker, was present and reported on recent developments and plans:

The recent dance sessions have been very successful and enthusiastically received. Sam will meet with Louise Cooper (Active Sports, D&G) to explore further options.

The Youth Disco and Adult Disco both took place and it is hoped to build on this in the future – various ideas in train for how to offer support. Money might help – various potential sources including LING.

Pot-luck community supper very successful with 63 people present. Thinking of a Family pot-luck supper and talking to the school about ideas.

Has a grant bid in for support for a 'Food and drink' month, with a celebration of local suppliers, apple pressing etc, building a calendar of events. There would be money for publicity and marketing. Noted that this might coincide with LING's annual Cheese and Wine event in September, where Bob envisages inviting a local cheese maker to provide cheese and attend to talk about (and sell) cheeses.

### 10. David Link: David introduced himself and his role, as one of four third sector engagement Officers in D&G. Changes are due in September, but currently he is available to support and advise

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us. Emphasised that it is we who are part of the third sector - the not for profit community-led sector alongside the public and private sectors. His organisation is there to support the work of the third sector.

He referred to the emergence of a South of Scotland Alliance involving the Borders and Dumfries and Galloway creating leading to the potential establishment of an enterprise initiative similar to the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Initiative. This could have a significant impact.

With reference to windfarm money, he stressed the importance of thinking about 'legacy' funding, which will continue to bring benefits once the compensation money has run out.

David requested his email be sent around trustees, emphasising that anyone is welcome to contact him.

### 11. Any reports from Sub-committees:

i) Report from Celebratory Events Sub-Committee: A meeting was due to happen in the evening. The plan is to have a picnic in the park on 9<sup>th</sup> June, planned in conjunction with Kells School who are celebrating 50 years since they moved to their new premises.

ii) To receive 'Exploring New Galloway' report as submitted to GGLP: The October 2018 report which had been submitted was tabled. Agreed that reports should be received by Trustees as part of their oversight role. Reports are due quarterly or three times a year (need to check). Jon Nimmo has agreed to take on the task of compiling and submitting the reports in the future.

David outlined progress on pathways. Areas where remedial action is required have been identified. Forestry will provide some additional input, including possibly some finance towards the bridge. Main issue is still the link to the long-distance footpath.

It was confirmed that money drawn down depends on match funding achieved by counting volunteer hours.

### 12. Training and Development opportunities for Trustees and Volunteers: Agreed the first step was to set up a half day workshop Trustee training day to be run by David Link. It was also suggested we might open it to other new trustees in New Galloway. Progress plans – find date (AG)

Noted that this would not make use of our £1000 budget.

A future option to hold a third sector Road Show in Town hall.

### 13. The New Galloway Story: Noted our bid to GGLP had been successful. A summary was tabled in the form of a draft email to be sent around those who had signed up as interested at the AGM. A small group initially but it is hoped this will grow. It is envisaged that a steering-group/sub-committee will emerge including some from outside LING.

Noted that the project has yet to be formally signed off. Details are being worked up including more detailed estimates.

The notion of Biosphere which underpins much of GGLP's work, was introduced and it was outlined how far LING's activities match well with these aims and purposes. Agreed to bring back to the next

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meeting and to explore how LING could become a supporter of the Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere.

### **14. Funding bids and priorities:**

i) Post-code lottery bid stage 1: Noted Ros has put in a stage 1 bid for funding towards an internet café.

### **15. LING activities, events and plans - past, present and future:**

- i) Oral history project timescale and plans – nothing further to report
- ii) Shop Trail plans and timescale – Avril and Ros have met to discuss plans
- iii) Internet cafe – still exploring options
- iv) Kitchen installation – agreed to call it a day on this and wait architect's advice.
- v) Bingo sessions – potential dates – no dates available in April and may have to wait till later in the year.

### **16. Publicity/promotion:**

- (i) display board completed for inside Town Hall front door: Ray offered to put this up.
- (ii) LING logo: Agreed we should ask Martha if she could create a Header and Footer for us with our logo in the header and our funders' logos in the footer.
- iii) Galloway Gazette: A piece reporting on our AGM has been submitted. Possibly the deadline for events dates has been missed.

**17. Membership and Friends:** Seven new applications for membership were approved; no new Friends as yet, but a possible one in the pipeline.

**18. AOB :** No other business

**19. Date of next meeting:** 2.00 pm 30<sup>th</sup> May

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### Confidential item

8. Viability Testing Tenders: to consider the recommendations of the steering group and decide which tender to accept

The recommendation of the steering group was accepted and Creetown will be invited to take on the commission.

It was agreed that both bids were strong and either would have met our requirements. The arguments were accepted that the Creetown bid had the advantage of knowing the area well. They also offered more days and would spend more time with us. In particular they had a stronger focus on the Community Consultation which seemed valuable.

They have provided additional information about the timeline and timescale and about what the architect will look at in terms of the building's structure. Also the two referees they offered have been followed up and both have responded very positively.

Notes that we would need to draw up a contract.

It was agreed the steering group should continue to oversee the process and that Tom Carlyle would join Ros, David and Ann on this. Update bulletins would be sent to the other Trustees as appropriate.

We would also need to draw up occasional summary bulletins/reports for the community and think about how to manage publicity.