

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Committee Meeting

15.01.2018

10.00am, Town Hall, New Galloway

Minutes

1. Present: Ros Hill, Ray Bridgeman, Bob Glaister, Ann Glaister

In attendance: Sue Vest (for first two hours of meeting), Ingrid Gemmel, James McCrossan, Sam Rushton (for an hour and a half)

2. Apologies: Craig Millar

3. Minutes of Meeting of 03.11.17: These were approved.

4. Matters arising:

(i) Re 'Ask the Experts', a follow up meeting is being held between Sue Vest, LING and NGCSE to consider next steps; also Crossmichael are going to follow suit with an 'Ask the Experts' visit in February. They are including Visibility Scotland. Noted we should let Sue know every time we refer to the report in communications/grant funding bids etc **(All)**.

(ii) Noted that the £500 NHS contribution to developing the sustainability of the LING lunches needs to be spent and accounted for by the end of March. We need to clarify how it has contributed to sustainability. Sue will send thoughts to Ros. Probably needs a meeting **(RH and SV)**.

5. Chair's Report:

The Chair's Report was tabled.

Noted in discussion that the broadband installation will cost £50, but there will then be an ongoing cost of £40 a month. Loreburn will cover this cost for the six weeks of their course.

Noted that the circuit training sessions had been going very well at three evenings a week, but that the trainer had now relocated. Sue mentioned Jason Ward who runs activities in the community and will send his email contact details.

Noted that Sue Vest was developing a Wellbeing Plan and that she is meeting with a number of people to discuss this and agree steps for taking it forward.

[Confidential minute 1]

(At this point Sam Rushton, the newly appointed Community Engagement Worker with NGCSE, was able to join us and was welcomed. She will continue to be 'in attendance' at our

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meetings. Sam was invited to set out what her role would be in the village and will be writing a summary of this for information.)

6. Financial Report: No report was made – the annual financial statement of accounts is still being worked on. Bob will meet with Ros this week.

7. Asset transfer:

Noted that a meeting had taken place as planned with Jamie Ferguson, Community Development and Empowerment Manager from D&G and Ingrid on 4th Dec. The notes from this had been circulated. Agreed that some information still needs to be unearthed, particularly the running costs of managing the building. Ros was keen to discover whether a Common Good Fund existed as part of the Stewartry Area Committee Fund. Ingrid is exploring the past sale of the adjoining houses on the High street and Ray referred to a storage building which had also been sold off separately. Ingrid advised that it would be unlikely at this stage that there could be any recompense for these sales.

It was agreed that, subject to discussion at the AGM, we would initiate progress to Stage 1 of the Asset Transfer process in order to progress a feasibility study.

8. AGM:

Draft of Annual Report was received. Ros will revise and finalise this (**RH**). Draft of poster also received. Ann will revise this and circulate (**AG**). Also need to send round email to email list and advertise on Facebook (**AG**). Attach Constitution to email and advertise on poster that copies are available from Ros or Ray.

Agreed to consult with Christine about how to handle approval of Constitution and membership of LING.

9. Funding bids and priorities – progress, planning and issues:

[Confidential minute 2]

Re kitchen installation still awaiting agreement from council that we can install it. Bid for cost of installation has been made to Screwfix – decision mid-February. Many thanks to Ray for dismantling, transporting and storing the kitchen fittings. Thanks also to be conveyed to Marion for the gift of the kitchen and to David Grieve for helping with the removal and transportation (**AG**). Agreed it would be useful to have a ballpark figure for the installation cost.

Noted that an estimate had been received now from Acorn for the installation of a stairlift on the main front stairwell which would run all the way from the ground floor up to the Upper Hall. The estimate was close to £5995 or £4650 for a reconditioned one. It was agreed this was more than had been expected and there would still be people who couldn't benefit from it who would need a lift. Decision about whether or not to pursue funding put on hold for now.

Ros reported that the Energy Savings Trust may be invited to advise on our best options for keeping the hall warm. Agreed that this seemed a good idea.

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Re maintenance of Town Hall, D&G council have cleared the gutters and have a cherry picker on order for maintenance of the clock tower.

In relation to the Architectural Heritage Fund, and the report that had been circulated on the meeting with Gordon Henry, it was agreed that their funding opportunity under the heading of 'Viability Funding' sounds very relevant for us - up to £5,000 – as it helps to establish whether we have a viable project. Agreed this should be pursued further **(AG)**. Noted, however, that these funds are available retrospectively so additional help would be needed.

Noted that the Celebration Christmas Concert held on 4th December was very successful and demonstrated a coming together of all the different groups across New Galloway. Congratulations and thanks to all those involved.

10. Town Hall events – past, present and future

Ray reported that the organising group of the Christmas Concert were planning to meet again to consider an event next Christmas and to explore other possibilities in between, such as a summer event. This was welcomed, and LING would wish to support this in whatever way was appropriate

Bob and Gordon Henry have continued to be in touch about a Bingo evening and this is now scheduled probably for 16th February, the day after the AGM. It would be family-friendly, with teas and coffees and soft drinks, rather than alcohol. Loreburn are helping by buying us a Bingo machine and prizes of £10 shop vouchers. They will also help with publicity. **(BG)**

Reported that Janette and Geoff Davidson are willing to put on a concert as a fund-raiser for the Town Hall. Welcomed as excellent news.

David Paterson is keen to mount an exhibition in the Town Hall of old photographs, paintings and memorabilia in the Town Hall. Ray will continue to work with him on this plan – probably to take place before Easter **(RB)**.

Ray will consider setting up another Antiques Road Show in the Autumn **(RB)**.

11. Publicity:

Noted not to forget ideas about use of flagpole, Town Crest, and need for a sign saying Town Hall. Ros will explore repainting of Town Crest **(RH)**. Noted that we do not have headed notepaper or any symbol for LING. Ingrid will send an example **(IG)**

12: Trustee training/good governance: Happening in two days' time. Questions for Christine were agreed.

13. Volunteer recruitment:

Volunteer record keeping. Ros reported that she had drawn up a form and would bring this on Wednesday to the Trustee training.

14. Membership – approval of applicants:

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No members had been signed up.

15. AOB: [Raised earlier in meeting by Sue Vest prior to her having to leave]

Sue Vest will be looking for feedback on the Resources Pack in the next week or two.

Sue is pulling together information about numbers in the village receiving 'meals-on-wheels' or equivalents, and on which days, in order to rationalise the planning and maximise the benefit, and raised the question of whether LING lunches might, on a Tuesday, provide take-away options. Ros has considered this and recognised that food safety issues, eg cooling down heated food, would have to be addressed, but it would be of interest to explore it.

16. Date of Next meeting: To be arranged.

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Confidential Minute 1: Noted re Duke Street properties – Ros reported that work seems to have stopped on the house next door. Agreed we should try to find out what is happening, but that we should not at this stage reconsider trying to buy it, nor contact the Rural Housing Fund about it.

Confidential Minute 2: Re parking space – noted successful bid to Glenkens Community Shop and submission of further bid to Stewartry Area Committee. Cost of purchase at £4000 plus estimated cost of lawyer's fee at £900 confirmed. Further funding is still needed although we could possibly cover it ourselves. Stewartry grant decision will not be made until March. Reminder that trustees need to take ID into lawyers on High Street. Noted that seller had now confirmed she would be paying her own costs and that she would wait for us to raise funds for one year.