

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SCO47553

Committee Meeting

10am Wednesday 19th June 2019

Town Hall, New Galloway

Minutes

1. **Present:** Ros Hill, Ray Bridgeman, David Hardy, Debbie Hardy, Tom Carlyle, Bob Glaister, Ann Glaister

In attendance: David Link, Sue Vest (first part of meeting), Sam Rushton (first part of meeting)

2. **Apologies for absence:** Eleanor Wilson

3. **Minutes of meeting** of 14th March 2019 approved, subject to amending item 14. Stage 1 funding application was for a 'Drop-in'.

4. **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 – what next? Agreed to progress this as a temporary post, inviting expressions of interest.
- ii) Re honorarium for cleaning: Ros has presented £50 plus flowers to Jane with our thanks.
- iii) Display Board in place – thanks to Ray – looks good
- iv) Re South of Scotland Alliance – see below under item 8

5. **Chair's report:** No additional issues not covered elsewhere

6. **Financial report:** Current balance of £21,890. After accounting for committed funds, that leaves about £5,000. That is in line with having approximately £3,000 surplus each year, suggesting we are ok to offer a temporary post for a 'host/key holder'.

Spread sheet has now been further revised to make life easier.

Financial information is now coming to treasurer from Jon re GGLP funding for gardens and pathways.

OSCR report was approved by Board to go forward to OSCR.

7. **Viability Testing Progress Report from Steering Group:** a summary on the outcomes of the Community Consultation phase had been sent around (see below) and was discussed. This phase can now be paid for and invoice was requested and has been received.

8. **Reports from those in attendance:**

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Sue Vest (Community Link Worker for Stewartry Health Improvement Team): Sue's team now includes Lee Brown and Zoe Hunter-Hill for one-to-one work, allowing Sue to take back her more strategic and proactive role. Can offer her contact details to anyone who might need some social or emotional support – can offer a bit of support or a gateway to other help.

Picking up the 'Farming memories' project again; also support for people with dementia in rural areas.

Collation of what is currently available now underway; also evaluation of work so far on social isolation is underway; and disabled access back on the agenda.

Noted - Sue can offer 'Mental health first aid' training – 12 hours for 8 or more people or 2hrs on early stage dementia.

Sam Rushton (Community Engagement Worker): Has secured funding for a 'Food Month' in September. Focus is on publicising local produce and on encouraging a feel-good factor. 6th to 28th September. Hoping that each area will host an event/series of events, food-related. Possibly LING to host an apple day with apple recipes and demonstrations with apple press. Guided walks.

Link in with LING Cheese and Wine Fundraiser – possibly 20th Sept. Will liaise with Bob.

Also planned – a Glenkens food trail for 14th September.

All to be summarised on a leaflet and advertised well.

Mon 12th August – Fun day in the park.

A successful community walk with 12 people took place around the golf course pathways. More planned by group of 'Walk Leaders' who have trained, as required, in risk assessment.

David Link (Third Sector Engagement Officer for the Stewartry):

Ros had referred to attending a disappointing meeting about the South of Scotland Alliance. David confirmed some frustration about what had been happening but explained that a new body was now being set up by the Scottish Government which will be similar to the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Agency – SOCEA, South of Scotland Enterprise Agency. This is expected to engage more in community consultation and there needs to be an emphasis on small rural communities working together, not just on larger town hubs.

OSCR have brought out a 'Governance Code'. David will send a link. Very useful.

Agreed to look for a date in September for Trustees to have a training session offered by David. **(AG)**

'Places Standard' based on 10,000 voices, useful tool for community engagement. Might be wanted in funding bids as part of evidence. David will send info.

9. Any reports from Sub-committees:

i) Celebratory Events Sub-Committee: The Picnic in the Park was a success. A good number turned up, perhaps fewer than last year, but £400 was raised and people had a good time. The pet show was a particular highlight and the involvement of the school was excellent. Money not to be spent immediately – under consideration. Possibly repair of benches or 'What's on' notice boards for

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the roads approaching New Galloway. LING asked Ray to convey thanks to the Celebratory Events Committee. The value of this committee and its work because of its spread and representation across the whole of New Galloway was particularly noted. Also lots of hard work. The Christmas Concert will be the next event to be planned.

ii) 'Exploring New Galloway': David reported on pathways progress and a report from Gerry was tabled. Walk leaders are liaising and planning walks; narrative descriptions of walks being tested out; photos being taken with a view to developing leaflets eventually.; alternative routes around tricky bits; signage is now up; Sam as catalyst for getting families involved; long range link-ups still on hold; David now holds chainsaw qualification for fallen timber.

Tom referred to his involvement in other parts of the longer-distance pathways heading south.

10. The New Galloway Story: Photograph of cheque hand over by Jude achieved and account written for publicity. Tom now part of Steering Group. LING now signed up as supporters of the Biosphere.

Discussion about possibility of deferring start due to pressure of time. Agreed instead that Bob should take lead role and try to move things forward in discussion with Tom and Ann. Not essential for Ros to commit time at this stage. Oral history project timescale and plans – need to check with Catstrand. Shop Trail plans and timescale are still on hold due to lack of time.

11. Training and Development opportunities for Trustees and Volunteers: -

i) Agreed to look for a half day date in September for a Trustee Training event with David Link.

ii) Agreed to explore the option of arranging an away day for Trustees, with a minibus, to visit other similar community groups with similar issues/challenges/ experiences and have lunch out somewhere. Good use of the money we have available to spend on training and development.

iii) Noted that Heritage Trust Network, with which we are affiliated, is holding another members' event on 28th August in Inverurie. The focus will be on ensuring full-cost recovery in grant bidding and on measuring impact. Costs for attending this could be covered. Ann and Bob might be interested. Also Ros?

GGLP are running a free training session on financial sustainability in the Catstrand on Thurs 27th June 5.30-7.00pm.

12. Funding bids and priorities:

Blackcraig Windfarm grants – a summary was tabled (see below) outlining the current position on bidding for windfarm money. There was not much time for discussion and it was agreed to meet on 25th July at 10.30am, the day after the Board meeting at which the draft Business Plan will be presented by Creetown Initiative. A number of ideas were floated. The notion of funding a part time 'Business Manager' found most favour. The need to clarify what might be meant by partnerships or partnership working was identified.

13. LING activities, events and plans - past, present and future:

i) LING lunch pricing: As the cost per head has increased by 25p, it was agreed to increase the

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price of coffee and biscuits to £1.50, and the price of pudding alone to be £2.50. The cost for soup, pudding and coffee inclusive would still be £5.00.

ii) Supported Computer drop-in sessions: These have now been instigated by the Castle Douglas IT centre every Tuesday 2.30-4.30 designed to help with benefits applications, job searches, CVs etc.

14. Publicity/promotion:

(i) LING letter head and logos for funders: agreed to defer this until feedback from Creetown and advice on branding, particularly the issue of how to achieve the right balance between LING and the Town Hall.

(ii) Galloway Gazette – next deadline is 5th July. We will have quite a good presence already with the Picnic in the Park and the GGLP piece about our NGS grant. Ros may do a follow up on where we are with the Community Consultation including a photo of Sharon receiving her prize draw money.

17. Membership and Friends – no further members or friends to report

18. AOB: Sarah Pearce of Heritage Trust Network will be visiting us on 9th July and staying for Tuesday lunch.

19. Date of next meeting: 24th July 2.00pm combined with presentation of Draft Business Plan by Creetown Initiative.

Viability Testing Progress Update 17th June

1. Community Consultation has been completed (although a few individual interviews will continue to happen as and when) and we had a feedback meeting on 11th June.
2. Outcomes were positive –
 - 136 returned questionnaires (about 30%)
 - 92% felt the Town Hall was valuable or very valuable as a resource
 - 90% would be concerned or very concerned about its closure
 - 74% would fully support LING's taking ownership.
3. Other things we can pick up on – mostly things we know already
 - Age range – to attract more young people
 - Marketing and publicity
 - Accessibility important
 - If increasing activity options, need to fully cost and bring in paid support

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4. Feasibility draft report to Steering Group rescheduled to 9th July
5. LING Board meeting on 24th July will now be presented with the Draft Business Plan which will give everyone a chance to feed in comments.
6. The final version of the Business Plan will be expected on 31st July
7. Advice in Business Plan will include advice on 'branding' for marketing and publicity and also on fund-raising strategies, including thoughts on the Blackcraig bidding opportunity.

Notes from Blackcraig Wind Farm Briefing (Dalry Sat 8th June)

- Being administered by Foundation Scotland in conjunction with The Glenkens and District Trust (on which Ros represents New Galloway Community Council). There are ten local volunteer Trustees.
- Decisions on grant awards will be made by the Trust
- Nine Community Council Areas are eligible to apply (see below)
- Current priorities (see below) are well in line with LING's priorities and we meet their eligibility criteria
- £213,275 available for distribution in 2019 through the main grants programme.
- Community Councils will also have money made available to them.
- Can apply for grants of between £500 and £25,000
- **Deadline for first round August 23rd**
- Decisions to be made in late October
- Partnership working welcomed
- Can apply for more than one project (need to check if that means more than one cost head within one project) as long as it's within the overall cost limit.
- Unfortunately, year on year funding is not, at this stage, guaranteed. This is not what had been expected.

Nine Community Council areas: Balmaclellan, Balmaghie, Carsphairn, Corsock % Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael and District, Dalry, Dunscore, The Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells Parish, and Parton.

The Fund's Priorities:

- To make life better for local residents and visitors by helping to meet their social, emotional, physical and environmental needs and wishes.
- To stimulate the feeling of belonging and pride in the area by encouraging people to join in with positive and creative activities
- To encourage activity that shares and celebrated the skills, experience and knowledge of local people.