

# Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

## Committee Meeting

23.01.2019

2.00pm, Town Hall, New Galloway

## Minutes

**1. Present:** Ros Hill, Ray Bridgeman, Bob Glaister, Ann Glaister, David Hardy, Debbie Daly, Sue Vest

**Visiting:** Tim Curtis

**2. Apologies:** Eleanor Wilson, Sam Rushton, Ingrid Gemmell, Jim McCrossan

**3. Minutes of Meeting of 28.11.18:** Approved subject to the following corrections – Item 7: that the clock time is still not correct.

### 4. Matters arising:

Re item 15 iv) That planning for an exterior notice board was on hold pending the outcome of a grant bid which would include a larger scale approach to external notice boards.

Re item 15 v) That a LING Facebook page has now been set up with help from Jim Ferguson It is live but not quite operational as yet, as Ann is still learning!

**5. Chair's Report:** A report was tabled and the amount of work being done was noted and appreciated.

An item on Ros's workload was discussed in relation to a proposal to pay for someone to open and close the hall. It was agreed this should not just be an honorarium arrangement (although we should pursue the payment of an honorarium for the cleaning of the hall). The current proposal was outlined and David offered to find out more about the legal issues relating to such employment. Agreed this should be pursued **(AG, DH, RH)**.

The donation by Hamish Yeoman of a framed print of the New Galloway Millennium High Street photograph was warmly welcomed and agreed it should be hung in the Lesser hall on the window wall. Several of the mounted copies he had also made have already been sold raising funds for LING. Much appreciated. Also welcomed was a poppy list of soldiers fallen in WW1 donated by Rev John Redpath and framed by Hamish. Also much appreciated a helpful donation of a colour inkjet printer.

Other information or discussion points from the Chair's Report are presented under the relevant agenda items to avoid duplication.

**6. Financial Report:** Bob Glaister reported that

- LING's current balance is £20,325, of which, after committed and set-aside money is deducted, around £5000 is available to us.

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- The work to get a third signatory (Ray) agreed had been done. As yet, no confirmation has been received from the bank.
- Water rates exemption – it appears we have to re-bid every year, so this has now been done for 19/20. In fact, they have awarded us exemption for 18/19, but not for 17/18. Bob is appealing.
- Treasurership search: Richard Nash responded to our advertisement in Glenkens Gazette and is willing to look after LING's books, although not to take the title of Treasurer. This will be enormously helpful and Bob is willing to continue in the interim as titular Treasurer.
- The good news is that the accounts for 17/18 have been completed and Maitland Rankin has agreed to act as our independent examiner. Ros will see him shortly.

**7. Reports and responses to queries from D&G Council:** A meeting had been held in the morning with Ingrid and Jim from D&G to discuss progress and interim arrangements. They will roll-on the Management Agreement, although a D&G review is currently taking place on leasing arrangements and there may be new proposals to consider. A summary of the meeting is appended to these minutes.

### **8. Report from Sue Vest:**

1) Ros and Ann had fed back LING's comments on the LING Lunches evaluation report by Erin Richmond to Sue, who had ensured, via Sharon, that some concerns were addressed. Erin has now moved to another post, having made some amendments, which we have just received. Ros and Ann will check through for any factual issues and Sue will seek to correct these. It was agreed that the work was much appreciated and that use can be made of the report. Ros plans a meeting with lunch volunteers and may use the report there.

2) Following the consultation phase of the 'Loneliness and Social Isolation' project, the Scottish Government has now produced their report, 'A Connected Scotland: Our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger social connections'. Sue will send a copy of this to all the trustees.

A 'Stewartry Isolation Partnership' has been established of which Sue is the lead contact. Function is two-fold: i) to collate local intelligence on relevant work and ii) to share this information including the knowledge framework being developed about, for example, the role of IT, the concept of considering 'access' in terms of access from sofa to venue and different kinds of barriers, including psychological barriers. Sue will send us information.

3) Stewartry is the only area in D&G with no population centre above 10,000. Important to note, in relation to anti-poverty agenda, that shopping basket measurements suggests it costs twice as much to buy food.

4) Castle Douglas is now conducting an access assessment called 'Access all Areas'. A template has been developed.

5) Since Erin's departure, Sue will be our main contact again.

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6) Sue is looking at ways of assessing the impact of ventures such as ours – particularly social impact or impact on health or mental health – on different categories of people. She is happy to help with any work we are doing where this might be useful.

### 9. Sub-committees:

i) *Celebratory Events Committee*: Successful concert held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December with about 100 in the audience. After the concert, followed the piper and congregated in the Catstrand, prior to the 'lights on'. The Town Hall had been decorated very nicely by several volunteers and was subsequently undecorated by rather fewer hands! The committee plan to repeat a concert next year and will also plan something for May/June. The LING trustees all expressed thanks to the members of the committee for their very successful ventures which were bringing the community together in many ways.

Noted that the accounts from the Celebratory Events subcommittee had been received by the Treasurer that morning.

(ii) *Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Project*: LING's first report on 'Exploring New Galloway' has now been submitted (attached for information) and the related draw-down of funds has now happened. GG will be presenting an outsize cheque at the Garroch Walled Garden on 30<sup>th</sup> January for publicity purposes. Noted that Jon Nimmo has offered to take on the writing of subsequent reports to GG.

A report from Gerry about the pathways scheme had been received and was tabled. A lot of work has been done. His comments about the age of the volunteers was noted and some ideas were discussed. David added that he was looking into signposting. Also that the Dumgal bid to extend the core path had not been successful and the pathways group might now take in some sections towards the top. The pathway from Cairn Edwards is too tricky but there may be subsequent opportunities to re-bid.

Ros had reported that the walled garden work is progressing well (see her Chair's Report for more detail) and a steering group meeting is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> Jan. The constitutional position of the project will be brought in line with the LING constitution. Noted that Ann had emailed Jon and Teri an outline of the constitutional relationship.

### 10. Report from Sam Rushton (Community Engagement Worker):

No report on this occasion, but noted that she had been instrumental in arranging for a series of five dance classes to be run in the Town Hall – designed to suit all ages. Also planning a Community Supper in the hall possibly on 9th Feb. Ongoing discussions about Young People's Drop-in to Hang-out.

**11. Draft for Annual Report:** The draft was accepted with one or two corrections; names of individuals to be taken out; agreed that print size was too small and solution may be to take section on funders out and add it to insert page with accounts.

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### 12. Viability Testing:

- i) Following the success of the grant bids, we now had £15,000 potentially for Viability Testing. £10,000 in our account already and a further £5000 to draw down later upon demonstrating progress. Tender bid draft – accepted – any subsequent comments would be welcome.
- ii) Potential invitees to bid – agreed to seek three bidders. David confirmed that showing three bids have been invited is sufficient. Final decision devolved to steering group.
- iii) Approximate timescales agreed – still in line with original planning timeline.
- iv) Publicity – announcement of successful grant awards to be public at AGM. Subsequently on Glenkens and LING Facebook pages – and in Glenkens Gazette (if not already done).
- v) Agreed to have a viability steering group to oversee the process – to consist of Ros Hill, David Hardy, Tim Curtis and Ann Glaister.
- vi) Training and development opportunities for trustees and volunteers – funds available as part of grant – agreed to defer this item.

### 13. Funding bids and priorities:

- i) Galloway Glens 'Our Heritage' small grants scheme invited submissions. Ann and Ros submitted a bid for £5000 towards an extension of The New Galloway Story, building on our exhibition, the Oral History project and the Shop Trail project. This to involve developing three copies of an external display board showing a map of New Galloway with interesting landmarks and heritage information, linked to a website on 'The New Galloway Story' which would expand on the information. Decision due 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- ii) Toilet adaptation grant bid unsuccessful: Sue Vest had suggested Rachel Cringen in 3<sup>rd</sup> sector might advise. Ann will write **(AG)**.

### 14. LING activities and events

- i) Planning AGM: New date of 28<sup>th</sup> Feb accepted. Poster draft accepted with date amended. Ann will send it **(AG)**. Shape of agenda – agreed to bring all discussion items forward into the formal part of the meeting; drinks to be served at outset; Friends' draw to happen after close of formal business. Ann will amend accordingly **(AG)**.
- ii) Oral history project: no further developments. Ros still plans to meet with Aidan Nicol.
- iii) Shops and businesses trail plans and timescale: Ros to meet with Avril on Friday.
- iv) Family Bingo session proposed for 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Debbie still keen to do some calling. **(BG)**.
- v) Internet café: Funding of £2721 available; Ros has written to Brian Edgar, as Catstrand have similar amount to see if there is room for collaboration; homework club still a possibility.
- vi) Kitchen installation: Some potential interest on a few fronts. Ray and Tim following up.
- vi) Thanks to Debbie Daly, Jigsaw and Board Games start up this Sunday; pool table now available too; A charge of £3 per family was agreed as appropriate.

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vii) Dalry art Class will be using the Lesser Hall on Monday afternoons – starting before Easter; and a series of five dance classes on Thursday evenings.

viii) Parent and toddler lunch and playtime possibility being explored by Ros.

### 15. Publicity/Promotion:

i) Revised display board draft from Martha was tabled. Some re-thinking ensued – to make this just about the hall and its history and take out references to activities. To be fed back to Martha **(AG)**. Copyright had been checked **(BG)**.

ii) Revised LING logo was liked. One shade of blue preferred. **(AG)**.

iii) Glenkens Gazette: calling for volunteers in a combined call paid for by GGLP. Ros has submitted an article and photographs.

iv) AGM poster – local trustees will co-ordinate distribution of posters; Ann will send it to Helen Keron for Glenkens Facebook.

**16. Sustainability Plan and Business Plan:** Due to shortage of time these were not discussed. They have been updated and Ann will send revised version to those who were interested/willing to have to a look – Ros, David, Tim and Bob. **(AG)**

**17. Membership and Friends** – Two new members; four new friends approved.

**18. AOBs:** No AOBs

**19. Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm.

## Notes from meeting with Ingrid Gemmell and Jim McCrossan on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 in New Galloway Town Hall

Present: Ros Hill, Bob Glaister, Ann Glaister, Ingrid Gemmell and Jim McCrossan

The meeting had been called by Ingrid to discuss the position in relation to the expiry of our Management Agreement in the context of our Stage 1 Asset Transfer application.

Currently our Management Agreement has been rolled on annually. It is due to expire at the end of January and the proposal from D&G Council is to roll it on again. This seemed acceptable to LING and requires no formal action or paperwork. Ingrid wanted to let us know, however, that the council are currently reviewing arrangements and some further negotiations may be needed when decisions are made, probably in six to eight weeks' time.

In relation to Asset Transfer and viability testing we were able to update them on our position and likely timescale. We also explained what would be involved in viability testing. Ingrid confirmed that there is no urgent pressure on us to take over ownership – others are on a list for a March deadline for transfer. She also advised that the option of considering a

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twenty, or even twenty-five year, lease could still be on the table, even at quite a late stage. In relation to a business plan, she advised that demonstrating social benefit would be key.

An application for Stage 2 Asset Transfer would go, via Ingrid, to the Stewartry Area Committee (who would be meeting, for example, in March 2020) and thence potentially to the Policy and Resources Committee for a recommendation, to go then to the full council. Ingrid advised that we should keep local councillors informed about our activities.

Ingrid and Jim enquired about progress with kitchen installation and we explained the delays. We also explained our frustrations about the downstairs toilets and the difficulty of securing funding. The next opportunity to apply to the Stewartry Area Committee will be delayed until after they have reviewed other commitments in March to see if any funds are left.

We asked them if they had indicative, historical and current costs of running the entire Town Hall, buildings repair etc. These might have gone, for example, to the 'Facilities Review Committee' it was thought and would be investigated. This information would be needed as part of the viability testing.

In relation to a discussion of poverty/low income households and 'social benefit', Ingrid mentioned that Jane Maitland had information about local statistics on poverty. Ingrid will also send us a copy of 'Tackling Poverty Strategy: the only way is up.' She will also send anything on the measurement of social benefit.

Ros took the opportunity to present Jim with a list of maintenance issues in the Town hall and to take him around to show him.

AG