

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Committee Meeting

28.11.2018

2.00pm, Town Hall, New Galloway

Minutes

1. Present: Ros Hill, Ray Bridgeman, Bob Glaister, Ann Glaister, David Hardy, Eleanor Wilson

Visiting: Tim Curtis

2. Apologies: Debbie Hardy, Debbie Daly, Sue Vest, Sam Rushton

3. Minutes of Meeting of 10.10.18: Approved subject to the following corrections – Minute 6: that Alan Rumble was asked by Ros for a transaction report; minute 10: that this referred to wood briquettes from the fuel co-op in Dumfries.

4. Matters arising: Noted that the oil discount scheme had now been set up successfully by Sam Rushton and that the idea of a ‘Youth Café’ is still live and under discussion.

5. Chair’s Report: There were no additional matters to report.

6. Financial Report: A report was tabled by Bob – see below. It was agreed that Ray would be the additional signatory for cheques (**BG to action**). Ros reported that she was on track to complete the 17/18 accounts before Christmas and have them signed off in time for the AGM (**RH**).

7. Reports and responses to queries from D&G: No reports today. Noted that the clock has been serviced and the time is now correct. The chime is still a bit out of synch but less than it was. A new mother board is needed. No action required by us.

8. Report from Sue Vest: In Sue and Erin’s absence, Erin’s evaluation report was received but more detailed discussion was postponed. Ros and Ann to be meeting with Sue Vest the following day. Initial thoughts were that to have an external evaluation was very much to be welcomed and the input and support was much appreciated. At the same time, it was disappointing not to have had the opportunity to discuss an interim report as expected. As a result, a number of factual inaccuracies had crept in. The report confirmed some things for us and made some suggestions we are actioning. It would have been interesting to have had a bit more evidence about the views of people who may need support to access the lunches and to have explored more fully the tie-in with a public health agenda in relation to loneliness and isolation, for example. An appendix seemed to be missing which might have provided some more information about methodology and about how many had fed into the consultation. Ros and Ann will feed back following the meeting with Sue Vest (**AG and RH**).

9. Sub-committees:

i) *Celebratory events Committee:* The Commemoration Bench was installed in the park as planned on November 9th and has been widely admired and appreciated. A photograph will be in the next edition of the Galloway Gazette.

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Plans in place for the 2nd of December St Andrew's Day concert. Tickets have been taken up, but a bit unclear if some are still being held and not collected. Another year it might be possible to advertise other events on the back of the ticket.

(ii) *Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Project*: Work on the pathways and the walled garden still going well, but quiet time now given the time of year. Roses have been bought and holes dug for garden. A financial report and general report is to be made to Galloway Glens (RH).

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

No report on this occasion, but it was noted that there had been a very successful 'Pot luck supper' for ladies in the Town Hall – attended by 48 (wow!) and including a younger age range which was very positive too.

11. Draft for Annual Report: The draft format was accepted and it was agreed to aim to get it all into a similar layout to last year. If necessary, the accounts could be an insert sheet. (AG)

12. Revisions to Sustainability Plan: Ann reported struggling to find a way to update this given its current format and will ask Sue Vest's advice. Would like to call it Developing Resilience, given the current focus amongst funding bodies. Agreed need to acknowledge achievements and allow those to 'drop down/out' somehow so that new activities and challenges can feature. Use of symbols may help. Will try to bring revisions to next meeting. (AG)

13. Funding bids and priorities:

i) It was agreed to leave the Tesco bid option on a back burner for now and to apply to Winnifred Kennedy Trust for funding for the downstairs toilet adaptation. Their deadline is 5th December and Ann has a draft prepared requesting £3000. (AG)

ii) In relation to the installation of the 'new' kitchen, nothing further had been heard from Darrel or Loreburn or Ros's contact. Agreed that Ray would now approach both Nathan and Adam (RB). Agreed that we had sufficient money in our account to cover the likely costs of this work, including the additional purchases that would be necessary.

iii) Our bid to the Glenskens Community Shop for a further grant towards a reconditioned industrial dishwasher for the kitchen was successful and we now have an additional £150 to add to the previous £150. Advised by Tim that it will be important to ensure appropriate drainage.

iv) The submission of our signed-off accounts has allowed the Stewarty funding towards our core costs to be released. This means we now have an additional £1488.

v) Very good news that £2200 further has been received from the Co-op. We now need a plan for how this will be progressed and Ros will have further discussions with about what form an Internet Café might take (RH).

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vi) Noted that the funding bids to Architectural Heritage Fund, Resilient Heritage and Awards for All had all gone in and results from two of the them are expected before Christmas. If the outcomes are positive, a tender document will be needed. **(AG to draft)**. The process of developing the bids had a been a learning experience! LING had now joined the Heritage Network Trust which gives us access to their Toolkit. Ros had suggested that Ann and Bob should attend one day of their conference in Stirling, which had been useful for learning and networking opportunities. A brief report is attached below.

14. LING activities and events

- i) Sensory Impairment Awareness training workshop on 11th October had gone well, run by Visibility D&G and hosted by LING. Useful information and good to see a spread of people from across New Galloway.
- ii) Family Bingo 24th November – a reasonable success with around 25 there and £102 made. The earlier time seemed to work and people enjoyed it. Good enough to feel we should continue to run further sessions in the late winter/early spring **(BG)**.
- iii) Shop trail plans and timescale: Agreed this links to New Galloway story. To be in place by Easter. Ray has an example of what was used earlier. Could commission Martha for some design input for posters. On agenda for next time with examples of wording and style agreed so far **(RH)**.
- iv) Oral history: No further developments. Ros will agree timescale with Aidan and bring plans to next meeting. Needs to link in again to New Galloway story. Perhaps leading up to a heritage event at the Town Hall. (Noted Dalry had a Heritage weekend). **(RH)**.
- v) Jigsaw and Board Games start up being planned for Sundays; Dalry art Class might be interested in using the hall; Dance possibly on Thursdays; offer of 50 white linen table napkins donation will be gratefully accepted.

15. Publicity/Promotion:

- i) Noted that the signposting in the parking area was now in place and was well-liked.
- ii) Preliminary work-up (with options) of the poster/information board for inside the front door of the Town Hall had been received from Martha, including possible designs for a logo and a smaller icon-type logo. These were liked and some specific suggestions and amendments were agreed to feed back to her **(AG)**. Will need to check copyright in relation to drawing of Town Hall **(BG)**.
- iii) Noted the Logo needs to mention LING rather than Town Hall as it has a broader function.
- iv) Notice board for outside Town Hall – agreed in principle – perhaps to go on side wall outside. Draft for next meeting **(AG)**. Provisional costs needed for external information board and for information cabinet also for side wall **(BG)**.
- v) Proposal for LING Facebook account: an offer from Jim Ferguson to help set this up has been accepted. Can use logo eventually. **(AG)**

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16. Membership and Friends – No new members; three new friends

17. AOBs: i) How should we acknowledge and thank volunteers? Agreed we should continue to thank them in the Annual Report **(AG)**

ii) Should we offer an honorarium for cleaning at the end of the year? Agreed to check this out and decide at next meeting. **(BG)**

iii) Ray's 'looking after things' in Ros's absence underlined how much load she carries. Agreed we need a way of spreading this, including by paying for support. For next agenda.

18. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd January at 2.00pm.

Finance report tabled (with corrections added from meeting)

1. Accounts for 2016/17 distributed previously. To note that there was a surplus for the year of £2240 and a carry forward of £5660.

Our business plan says we have a plan to hold reserves sufficient for the running costs for one year. Presently our reserves come to £500. I propose we make that £1000.

2. A notice was placed in Galloway Gazette seeking interest in our Treasurership.

3. Our current balance is roughly £10,000. Of that there are restricted funds:

Galloway Glens projects	c£1200
Celebratory Events Comm	c£120
Gala Fund money	£1000
Reserves	£1000
Co-op	£2700

Our running costs are roughly £4000.

4. On Monday Ros and I met with Alan Rumble to

- settle some financial procedures
- look forward to the 2017/18 accounts for which Ros has a new spreadsheet and noting that we shall have to log separately the various restricted funds
- consider our first annual return to OSCR which has to be lodged by 31 July 2019.
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5. Note with delight the grants from Co-op of £2700 and Stewartry Comm of £1488.

6. We need a third signatory of cheques. Ros and I are two. Craig was. Ann cannot be.

Bob Glaister

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Heritage Network Trust conference in Stirling – Monday 19th November

In brief

Attended day 1 of the conference which was based in The Engine Shed – a heritage-focussed museum/training centre – lovely place.

Billed as offering ‘Peer to peer support; top tips about best practice; practical skills; skills-share and networking opportunity’. In fact there were lots of speakers – very good, but not actually much time for networking or discussion except at short breaks. However, good quality information.

In particular, we met up with Gordon Barr again, who is about to review our bid to Architectural Heritage Fund to report to the Trustees Board on 17th December. So, hopefully, that was good!

AHF launching new strategy in Jan 2019 – Matthew McKeague, the CEO, gave us a rundown. Talked about heritage in context of developing civic pride and enhancing wellbeing and how regeneration has a positive impact on communities. How places are integral to building social capital and social infrastructure. Fostering social co-operation and togetherness, combating loneliness and social-isolation. One of his themes was the need to look at how to measure social impact.

Had a chance to chat to Jim Bennett who runs SKS Scotland and who talked about the Technical Assistance Fund as part of the Scottish Land Fund. SKS (see quote from website below) offer a similar service to Andrew Ward’s Creetown Initiative and would be an option when we go out to tender.

Ann and Bob

From SKS website:

SKS provides services to charities, social enterprises and social businesses to help develop their long-term sustainability – from business planning to service design and marketing support.

We work with community organisations to support their preparation and application for Scottish Land Fund / Big lottery funding (stage 1 and 2) and can assist in the complete community asset transfer process. We also work in partnership with both the NHS and local authorities developing innovative solutions to marketing and communications and co designed service delivery.