

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Committee Meeting

31.08.2018

10.15am, Town Hall, New Galloway

Minutes

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

In attendance: Sue Vest, Erin Richmond, Sam Rushton. Erin was welcomed to her first meeting.

2. Apologies: Eleanor Wilson, Ingrid Gemmell, James McCrossan, Craig Millar

3. Minutes of Meeting of 11.06.18: These were approved

4. Matters arising: (i) A follow up email had been sent to Robert Lowther in relation to the exterior painting of the Town Hall. Ingrid had replied saying that they did not believe that the wording suggested they would be responsible for this repainting. It seems we have to accept this. Agreed it may be best to await major funding for refurbishment and see this as part of that longer-term venture.

(ii) The informal meeting of the trustees took place as planned on 26th July, following a meeting with Andrew Ward of Creetown Initiatives. Separate notes exist for that meeting, which took us forward in our planning for the Viability Testing phase in relation to Asset Transfer.

5. Chair's Report: A report (copy attached) was tabled by Ros, who talked it through. It covered: actions on the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership 'exploring New Galloway Partnership; Liaison with Loreburn; Liaison with Sam Rushton; Liaison with Paul Scrimshaw; Liaison with Catstrand; Ongoing clothes sale; Alternative Games; Current Use of Town Hall; LING Jigsaw and Games; Future use of hall; Donations; Co-op grant; LING car park and Kenmure Court Flooding.

6. Financial Report: Ros apologised that the accounts were not yet finalised. The final (we hope) version is with Alan Rumble and we await his response. A number of things depend on getting the signed off accounts, including Stewartry releasing the funding to us for core costs, securing government funding for water charges, and submitting bids for viability testing.

Bob reported that we are receiving some funding from Tesco towards Autumn events (Cheese and Wine and Bingo). Also hoping for contributions from The Smithy, Loreburn, and Catstrand.

The water bill has at last been agreed as a charge from when we took over until the date we became a charity. We will be paying £159 a month up to the point when arrears are paid.

7. Reports and responses to queries from D&G: No reports today

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8. Report from Sue Vest: (i) Sue reported that the government consultation on social isolation and loneliness, in which LING had participated through the Stewartry Conversation was completed and that she had prioritised potential projects arising from what had been said during consultations. This included the internet café and any intergenerational activities. She, in her role as NHS Community Development worker, would be able to help with fund-raising, planning and co-ordination.

Access work, following the Ask the Experts visit to New Galloway, is still ongoing, with a current project fund-raising to improve access to Crossmichael Church.

(ii) As a part of Erin's role as Community Health and Wellbeing worker, she will take on the evaluation of LING lunches and would hope to complete this between September and December.

Noted that the timing would allow the work to feed into the viability study.

Agreed there should be two strands to this, one looking at the experiences of attendees and the other looking at the barriers or challenges for those who do not, but might wish to, attend. Issues of transport, finance, and the need for buddying/ supported introductions were mentioned. Sue would hope that the outcomes might feed into work on social prescribing. Sam's role and contacts might enable her to feed into this aspect of the work.

Agreed that a meeting should be facilitated between Erin, Ros, Sam and others. **(AG)**

9. Sub-committees:

i) *Celebratory events Committee:* A meeting had taken place last week and, given the success of the Picnic in the Park, it had been agreed that this should be repeated next year. £523 had been raised in donations and £400 were being put towards a memorial bench in the park. This needed to be doubled and contributions had been forthcoming from Kells and Dalry Church - £100, Loreburn -£150, Alternative Games - £50 and St Margaret's Church - £100. Jim Mc Crossan was coming to inspect the potential site and it was hoped to have it in place in time for Remembrance Day.

A winter concert was being planned again for Dec 2nd, linked to St Andrew's Day and a Scottish theme, but it would still connect with Christmas in being timed to coincide with the Christmas Lights being switched on.

Helen Keron and Aiden from CatStrand are liaising over producing a single sheet of What's On as a Christmas Community Programme.

(ii) *Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Project:* A report on the Exploring New Galloway project is included in the Chair's Report. This covers both the clearance of the Golf Course woods footpaths and the planning related to the Garroch Estate Walled Garden.

10. Report from Sam Rushton (Community Engagement Worker): (See attachment) A great deal to report: on relocation of office, establishment of community diary, CAB surgeries, 'Ladies Give it a Go', 'Shop Trail', Wishing Tree survey, and Football in the Park. All very

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positive. Focusing on ensuring that she facilitates others to take things on themselves. On Wednesday evening, there had been about 30 people out enjoying the park, football etc!

In relation to the 'Shop Trail', a grant of £75 had been secured from Dalry Charity Shop to support admin costs and hall hire for meetings. A number of people have been involved in the planning for this over a period of time, the idea being that posters showing where shops previously existed in the village would be displayed around the village. It was agreed that it might be helpful for LING to take an umbrella role as the project sits well under the 'New Galloway Story' heading and can form part of other developments. (For example, work is underway involving Ros and Aiden to support an oral history project in which children are supported and trained to be able to interview older residents.)

Agreed that a follow-up meeting should be held.

11. Future Plans for the Town Hall: In line with previous discussions, it was confirmed that LING Trustees are agreed that we should progress to a viability testing phase in moving towards a Stage 2 application for Asset Transfer of the Town Hall from D&G Council to LING; also agreed that applications for funding support should be made to the Architectural Heritage Fund, Resilient Heritage and Awards for All.

The draft Tender Brief was talked through and was agreed.

Noted that the application to the Architectural Heritage Fund is near to being finalised, with advice and comment from Gordon Barr and input suggestions from Sue Vest. Ros, David and Bob agreed they would look at the draft and comment.

Agreed that the timescale envisaged for viability testing should be 6 months, in line with advice from Gordon Barr. This would run notionally from March to September 2019.

The question was asked as to what support if any might be available to LING, as a community-based charity, from D&G, subsequent to Asset Transfer taking place. Would we be left entirely to our own devices at the at point? Agreed this was a good question which should be explored.

A confidential minute exists in relation to this item.

12. Publicity/Promotion: As agreed, a summary leaflet outlining steps to be taken in relation to publicising forthcoming events had been circulated. This was welcomed and can be used as a check list. Further suggestions were made about where posters might be displayed including: Garden Hill Primary Care, Co-op notice board, Tesco, and Wilko.

Agreed that the Tesco rep, who wished to attend, could be invited to the next meeting.

Ros suggested we should have a Forthcoming Events poster and also a leaflet summarising all the things now happening in the Town Hall. Agreed that she would draft these for the next meeting. (RH)

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

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i) car parking space: the acquisition has gone through successfully and a temporary sign has been erected. Our contribution was £650 in the end out of the total of £5040 including legal fees. More permanent signage is needed. Agreed to keep the blue planter and design a sign to sit in that. Also to design two signs to be fitted on the wall at the back, one for each space. Agreed that having a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Cheese and Wine would be good idea.

It was agreed that Ros should contact Environmental Health to register the flooding problem and to enquire whether the alterations to the flats have been approved by Building Control.

ii) kitchen installation: nothing further to report. Awaiting a response from Darrel who is to view the kitchen and determine final plans and costings. Also awaiting a response from Loreburn as to whether they are able to fit the kitchen for us.

iii) Architectural Heritage and Resilient Heritage: One bid almost ready for Architectural Heritage; awaiting guidance from Resilient Heritage due to problems with enquiry form; also been in touch with Awards for All and seems appropriate to bid.

iv) Winnifred Kennedy fund – success with bidding for a pavement edge ramp and a doorbell.

14. Town Hall activities and events – past present and future:

(i) Wine and Cheese Evening 21st Sept: draft poster tabled and agreed, with the suggestion that New Age Kurling might be possible in the downstairs hall. To be explored. Agreed that email should be sent to Glenkens interest list as well as the main email list.

(ii) Family Bingo evenings 20th Oct and 24th Nov: need to get these advertised in What's On list in Glenkens Gazette.

15. Oops – skipped a number!

16. Data Base development and data storage: Reported that this was now in hand following Ann's training session in Castle Douglas. Ann will provide detailed guidance on how to access Google Drive storage of shared documents soon.

17. Membership and Friends: No further Friends or Members to report, although Ray had some potential Friends in the offing.

18. AOB: Clare provided us with Carer survey questionnaires to make available to people.

19. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday October 10th at 2.00pm.

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Confidential minute – 31st August 2018

In discussing the viability testing phase of Town Hall Asset Transfer, Ros wished to raise again the possibility of exploring the purchase of the attached dwelling behind the Town Hall and also the unoccupied building across the road in Duke Street. The feeling was that, in line with Andrew Ward's advice on this, that we should focus in the first instance on the Town Hall Asset Transfer issue, as taking this on as well would be more than we could cope with.

Ros was keen not to leave it in abeyance, however, and it was agreed that she should bring this as a discussion item to the next meeting. **(RH)**