

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SCO47553

Board Meeting (by Zoom)

10.30 am Wednesday 18th and Friday 20th October 2020

Minutes

1. **Present:** Ros Hill (chair), David Hardy, Tom Carlyle, Glynne Shackleton (for 18th only), Ann Glaister, Bob Glaister. **In attendance:** Melinda Dolan, Sue Vest (both 18th only), David Link,
2. **Apologies for absence:** Sam Rushton, Ingrid Gemmell, Jim McCrossan, Robert Lowther
(Noted that D&G staff are not permitted to use Zoom)
3. **Minutes of Meeting on 20th and 22nd October:** These were considered and approved
4. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.
5. **Chair's report:** Received and noted (attached below)
6. **Financial report:** Received. Noted that the accounts are nearly ready to go to the independent examiner; the balance is healthy pending capital works to be undertaken; the CEC grant from the Community Council is to be returned as the planned commemorative event had to be cancelled due to Covid.
7. **Reports from those in Attendance:**

Melinda Dolan: Regarding opening of Town Hall, noted that some owned halls are open, eg in Dalry and Balmaclellan. The risk assessment that had taken place was noted to only relate to the proposed use of the hall for flu-vaccinations.

David Link: That advice for 'managed hall' has not yet been forthcoming from the government and third sector advice is NOT to open. If considering, then advice is to consult our insurance company. He had had a good response to the consultation about forming a local halls association with a lot of positive interest. Provision over Christmas includes statutory services providing 'Community Kindness' actions. Volunteers available to help.

Sue Vest: i) Sustrans (UK walking and cycling charity) bidding with Barney Fryer for funding to increase cycle provision around Glenkens. Network of walking, wheeling and cycling. Looking a triangle of New Galloway, Dalry, Balmaclellan – subsequently New Galloway/ Parton link. ii) Community food providers, linking up provision – access is an issue leading to hidden poverty. Noted there is a Tesco bus weekly from New Galloway. iii) Obesity links to heightened Covid risks creates a link with obesity work in relation to type 2 diabetes. Can make the link between any promotion of physical activities (eg whether on walks or in delivering groceries) and strategies to reduce obesity. Useful for potential basis for funding bids.
8. **Reports from Sub-committees:**

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i) Celebratory Events Committee: Joan Walker is producing the Festive Events Programme for New Galloway.

(ii) David Hardy reported that some pathway re-instatement was underway. A mile of fallen trees cleared, but have found three board walks in need of repair. Should be achieved by Spring. Noted also that Link Path development, including Knockarling Bridge, will connect up with the work LING is doing in reinstating and advertising walks. Noted that walks are now described on our website and Castle Douglas visitors' Centre has been in touch wanting to print out more copies. A leaflet is being developed. Noted query from landowner about parking liability and insurance. Signage for walks still to be explored. Need to encourage more young volunteers.

9. LING activities, events and plans – past, present and future:

i) The New Galloway Story – Noted there had been 30 plus responses to the survey which Grace will summarise. A small group will be set up to take things forward.

ii) Virtual events – Friends' Zoom gathering planned for 25th November; LING Festive Bingo (by Zoom) is planned for 12th December.

(iii) Using some of our Co-op grant, Jackie Williams is being contracted to liaise with Sam on encouraging more digital connectivity in New Galloway. Sam, as CEW, has funding to loan hardware. NB – this is a collaborative venture with NGCE.

(iv) Noted LING'S involvement in Christmas festivities including provision of a Christmas lunch to be provided by Dawn and home-delivered by volunteers. Price to lunchers will be £5, subsidised by LING.

v) Agreed to try for 25th February 2021 for an AGM date – to be checked with NGCE and Catstrand.

10. Fund Raising:

Noted that application to Glenkens Trust Community to extend by another year (windfarm funding pending for lift installation - £25,000) has been approved; A similar request has been sent to the Hugh Fraser Trust (re provisional award of £7,000); the Robertson Trust (an award of £7,500 pending) do not require contact for another six months.

Noted that the Stewartry Area Committee were meeting on 18th October to consider our bids in relation to the kitchen and toilet installation. We await notification of the outcome.

11. Capital developments: (i) Noted that Glynne has checked out the kitchen and made some suggested amendments to the plan. He is lining up tradesmen and suggests that doing the kitchen and the toilets at the same time could save us money. Secretary to email D&G for approval of toilet installation plan. Approval previously given for kitchen, subject to greater detail when it is available. Ros noted the need to consider positioning of a sink for cleaner which will be lost when lift is installed. Not currently in plans. ii) Re state of hall and potential to address any potential work needed at the same time. Tom pointed up the recommendation from Richardson and Starling's survey to install a damp course along the

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internal hall wall, which should be done before the adjacent kitchen and toilets are redone. Noted need to revisit costing in estimate and agreed that this would be a priority. Should be added to email seeking approval. Other concerns about water ingress and the need for work to be done in the tower were noted. In particular a further email should be sent to Jim McCrossan about the water ingress and the need to clear gutters and check the roof.

12. Community Action Plan: Two papers were received from Bob Glaister and David Hardy and were welcomed and discussed. Agreed that any further comments from Board members should be sent by Wednesday. Noted that clarifying our assets and what we offer is valuable. Response to GDT should be sent subject to any revisions suggested.

13. Publicity/promotion:

- i) Work and presence on website and Facebook continues. A walks leaflet is under development with Martha Schofield being contracted to design it.
- ii) LING contribution to the LINK path has led to some publicity courtesy of GGLP as well as on our own Facebook page.
- iii) Glenkens Gazette: Need to get a submission in for end December to cover kitchen and toilet plans for February/March issue.
- iv) Posters are underway for Festive Bingo and for IT support.

14. Trustee and volunteer development: Summary paper received; agreed to bring further proposals to next meeting. Noted current plans in train and additions needed. Need trigger dates. Agreed this was a useful record and a way of planning continuing development.

15. Governance review: (i) Health and safety plan and risk assessment –Discussion deferred to next meeting.

(ii) Draft equality policy paper – to be considered next time after discussion with Helen Keron and Sue Vest, particularly in relation to inclusion of mental health.

(iii) Tom to review current insurance policy.

(iv) Ros to review draft provided by Bob outlining proposed governance structure relationship with Board for sub-committees (Currently Community Events Committee and Exploring New Galloway). Ros will also look at other groups, eg proposed craft group and propose what status they should have.

(v) Amendments to constitution proposed and agreed subject to approval at next AGM – relating to remote or virtual meetings and the mechanism for the use of proxies.

Noted that we should develop a d ‘Volunteer Policy’.

16. Advisory Group: Noted that Helen has a Zoom meeting date in place for 3rd December which Ann has been invited to attend.

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17. Asset transfer and related issues: Agreed to write again to D&G and also to the three Councillors as there has been no progress over the past fourteen months.

18. Membership and Friends – No additions

19. AOB: The question of how to expedite our meetings was raised and a number of suggestions were made. Agreed that a summary of these recommendations should be produced as guidelines for all participants.

20. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th January by Zoom.

Chair's Report

It was a busy beginning to the year following our last meeting on 22 January.

23 January. Attended a meeting at The Crichton. Outside the Box. This introduced us to happenings in other parts of the country – and GCAT

25 January. The Volunteers Lunch with the talk by Barnaby Fryer newly appointed to Loch Ken Alive was enjoyed by all providing an opportunity to meet without pressure. Thanks to Ann and Bob for arranging.

27 January – attended GCAT AGM

29 January – LING BINGO

15 February – Snowdrop fundraising in aid of LING

27 February – LING AGM

3 March – the GGLP Jamboree meeting where several of the projects were introduced. Gave brief update.

4 & 11 March – I had noticed a number of young Mums about the village and six had indicated they would like to join a group. Jackie (IT) told me about 'peeps' run by D&G Lifelong Learning and we were able to set it up for weekly meetings to run until Easter. After Lockdown I suggested they might like to meet virtually but the idea wasn't taken up.

5 March – attended the NGCE AGM

17 March – We cancelled LING Lunch but Tom and I went along to the Hall in case anyone came. One regular attendee did and we had coffee.

After this D&G Council posted a COVID closed notice on the front door.

As some of you may know for several weeks I produced virtual lunches for LING Facebook

As part of Sam's ideas I put up a display of old posters to remind people of what we used to do and what would come back.

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After some discussion with Nick several regular gardeners carried on during Lockdown and some more have since joined the group.

The Paths group got going with the growing season but reduced in number by Gordon's broken leg restrictions.

September Food Month Apple Pressing was enjoyed by some visitors but not as many as last year.

Summer bunting was produced for the Town Hall by Ginny Anson. She also created a tapestry window memorial to Betty McQueen who was a Hall Keeper for many years. Ray has kept the flowers going.

6 October - Attended Kirkcudbright Museum to find out more about the two Town Hall Houses from the Burgh Council records. I will produce a report and also contact DTAS.

We have had a request to use the Town Hall in December by the NHS for flu vaccinations. Also from Scottish Woodlands for Waterside Hill Consultation.

Glenkens Gazette - reports submitted to all editions.

New activities pending: Craft Group; Library; Martial Arts; Parent & Toddlers: Feral Bees in Garroch Garden

Rosalind Hill, 21 October 2020

David's report on pathways activities.

1. Maintenance work has continued on both the Golf Club Woods and Garroch foot paths (observing Covid 19 guidelines) to keep back encroaching growth and maintain bridges and boardwalks. Good evidence that paths are being used especially in the Golf Club Woods
2. Gerry has provided input in respect to promoting use of pathways and route guidance that has been incorporated into the new website and in the production of hard copy guides.
3. Nick the Garroch landowner, together with Gerry, Ros and myself led an on the ground walkabout identifying work he would like us to consider as part of the next phase of development. In particular the re-routing of an established footpath to avoid trees identified as being of scientific interest and the re-establishing an overgrown disused pathway as an alternative to crossing fields during lambing season – Gerry intends to schedule this work in alongside general ongoing maintenance as part of our next schedule of work. Nick also had discussions with Gerry identifying the need for signage to be erected in respect to:
 - a. Dog walkers keeping dogs under control and on leads when crossing open fields containing livestock
 - b. Disclaimers in respect to land owners' liability/responsibility for those parking cars and making use of footpaths in the Garroch area
4. Gerry continues to maintain contact with other active groups and agencies that have a remit around similar work within the Glenkens catchments. This all feeds in to the broader Glenkens Community Action Plan
5. Looking to the future there remains a need to:
 - a. Attract additional volunteers to undertake footpath work

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- b. Explore the possibility of mixed ability lead walks as an introduction to walking and the Garroch footpaths