

# Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC047553

## Board Meeting

### New Galloway Town Hall

7.30 pm Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## Minutes

1. Present: Mary Smith, Glynne Shackleton, Bob Glaister, David Hardy, Barbara Barker and Poppy Gilbert.

2. Apologies for absence: Ann Glaister.

Note: Ros will be taking a leave of absence for 3 months due to travel, and will review after that period.

3. Minutes of meetings of 26<sup>th</sup> August: The minutes of both meetings were accepted as an accurate account

4. Matters arising:

5. Chair's report: Mary gave a brief introduction and flagged up that there are various items on youth activities that she would cover later on in the meeting.

6. Financial Report: Received and briefly discussed. Noted the need for a second signatory, in the process of the renovations it was proposed that invoices would be submitted by Glynne and Ronnie in place of this system for Bob to pay. Various donations were discussed including the Howat Trust and Barr Trust donations that were the result of cold calling.

7. Post Asset-transfer plans and challenges: Glynne provided a summary. The council is currently out to tender for reinstallation of the materials that have been removed to resolve the dry rot situation. They expect to complete around the end of November. If we are to wait until the work is finished to progress this puts some of the grants at risk. The question was raised as to whether we should proceed with some work regardless of the dry rot process. Would be much easier for the council when they come to reinstate if we could do the work in the boiler room before that, this would mean removal of the electricals, if we wait the situation with the electricals would be problematic. This also affects the heating as we are going for an electric system. Glynne's opinion is that it would be much easier if the building were to close and we just get on with it. Contractors have already been identified. This situation was discussed amongst the members present – previous discussions had

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ended with the understanding that at some point the building would have to be out of action. Mary outlined what is currently happening through the week at the hall and the combined income of those things at £10/hour or less. Bob raised a concern that we don't know for sure that we have the contractors in place for the full scope of work at this time – particularly for the lift and electrical work. Toilets upstairs are finished, as are the downstairs ones. Glynnie has planning permission in for the lift and the alterations at that side, also a separate application for the air-source heat pump. We have quotations for most things in place but no start dates.

Painting of the exterior will start soon, paint is ordered and the painter is ready to go, we await a plasterer to fix a crack in the wall.

Noted that Ann is working hard currently to secure an additional 6 months to Ronnie's contract, which is due to end at Christmas currently.

Glynnie is looking for a picture of the tower from before 1920's/30's, as the old coat of arms has been found and he believes it used to be on the tower.

## 8. Youth Activities

Mary reported that the youth activities are going very well. There is a report available, which Mary would circulate after the meeting.

Details:

- Weekly youth get togethers have been being held in Dalry with good attendance from both familiar faces and new people.
- Two more youth trips are planned before the end of the year.
- Congratulations are due to Olivia, who is expecting a baby and will finish at the end of January for maternity leave. She is freelance, and the funding is in place until the end of March.
- We will have funding left over so we could potentially fund someone delivering youth events using fewer hours a week, but for longer.
- There was a potential plan to do something with GCAT jointly, however they have decided to focus solely on arts.
- The question is whether youth work is taken forward by LING or whether this was handed over to Connecting in Communities, who would fund it, but with a group from various stakeholders in the community to collaborate over the steering of the youth work.

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- Youth provision was never intended to be solely based out of the Town Hall, so LING does not necessarily get anything out of the youth work other than when youth activities happen to be held in the hall.
- It was discussed that a joint project was a good thing, but that it might make more sense if it was 'owned' by Connecting in Communities, also that given this is a youth provision then what the young people attending should be asked for their views.
- Connecting in Communities has provision for a line manager for a youth worker.

## 9. Planned Events:

- i) Angie's Garroch Walled Garden Food event for Glenkens Food month was very good.
- ii) Angie is keen to repeat the Glenkens Food Month
- iii) Potential to create a Glenkens embroidery panel with different craft groups creating panels to be put together and toured around various community spaces in the area.
- iv) strollers – easy walks for people e.g. Clatteringshaws with a cup of tea!
- v) Main thing is the lunches, which are going well at Kitty's after a very large turn out for the first week at Kitty's. Angie has raised the possibility of simplifying the menu so that the focus is on this being a social event. Also potential to be open longer for more social interaction.
- vi) Flagged up that people might still be being asked for names and addresses at the door for LING lunches, which is a GDPR concern – it is useful to have some metrics to support future grants. Agreed that addresses are not required and visitors are recorded as visitors.
- vii) Community Hub – funding was not granted by the Community Council, however a plan is being worked on by Ann, but this will need funding put in place.
- viii) It was proposed that the Ceilidh could have been held in a marquee, however no marquee companies are willing to rent in the winter. There is a suggestion that Kells school hall could be used, there might be issues with this e.g. toilets, a bar. The band is provisionally booked so a decisions needs to be made quickly and the band let know if we don't intend to hold it this year.
- ix) Cheese and Wine – still no date arranged, and no decision as to whether this would be an event for friends only or a fundraiser – if this happens in Kitty's (if available) this would need to just be for friends. Angie has suggested that the event could be used to thank volunteers. Could potentially be a festive event towards the end of the year.
- X) Agreed that a relaunch event should be held in the New Year, but that we can't really plan for that now.

## 10. Reports of sub-group issues and proposed actions:

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i) Business plan – update from me – what needs changing. This is now reasonably urgent – the old one is now so out of date that we can't really use it so we need to try and have something done in the next month or so. Need to recognise the pressure on trustees and there is a large volume of work – trustees and volunteers/staffing need to be considered in terms of the sustainability of the plan. Management of the diary etc needs to be taken into consideration. Once work on the hall is completed, however, the commitments for various trustees will change. Commitment to the town hall was based on the expectation that the Hall will be self-sustaining once works are complete so the staffing requirements to manage that need consideration. Previously there was a part time Hall Keeper to open up/close up etc. **All to have a look and let PG know any thoughts.**

ii) Pathways – David gave a verbal update – we are at a point where Gerry has been trying to talk to Nick Roper at the Garroch Estate, he is tied by the areas designated as areas of scientific interest. The work needing done is beyond our capabilities and will need professionals. Funding would be needed for this. Work has been done on the Alpine Way. Will be looking for Volunteers October/November to start work on a circular walk. Other paths on the Garroch estate have been cleared and are walkable. Golf club woods walk has been cleared – some upkeep in terms of steps etc will be needed later on in the year. We are spending so that equipment is sourced before the funding ends at the end of the year. Some pieces of kit are proving hard to source.

David asked whether there would be members of the Youth group that might want to help out for work experience. For the Autumn/Winter this would be cleaning of boardwalks etc. John Muir Awards were discussed as a possibility, with potential to combine it with a fun event.

iii) New Galloway Stories – note sent round by Bob. Consultant engaged to look at websites – walks etc have been in one place for a long time. Bob would like to have the shops idea resurrected perhaps in the form of a leaflet.

iv) report circulated on the walled garden

v) Garroch are keen to get a lease agreement in place but it is proving difficult to get in touch with the factor. Suggestion that moving this forward could be through the solicitor. Our solicitor is retiring and no one in his firm seems keen to take it on. We have some funds so this would not necessarily need to be Pro Bono. Suggesting that Galloway Glens might be open to providing additional funds.

11. AOBs: i) Proposal was put to the group to look for funding from '**Let's do net zero Scotland community buildings fund**' – **this was approved unanimously.**

ii)

13. Date of next meeting: Suggestions to be circulated – Mary suggested 25<sup>th</sup> November.