

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC047553

Board Meeting

New Galloway Town Hall

7.30 pm Friday 2nd December 2022

Minutes

1. Present: Glynne Shackleton, Bob Glaister, David Hardy, Barbara Barker and Poppy Gilbert, Ann Glaister.
2. Apologies for absence: Mary Smith.
3. Minutes of meetings of 10th October: The minutes of the meeting were accepted as an accurate account
4. Matters arising: There were no matters arising
5. Chair's report: In Mary's absence, there was no Chair's report.
6. Financial Report: The report from the treasurer had been received by the Board. Bob explained that the apparent imbalance between restricted funds and the balance in the bank, was because some of the 'restricted funds' had yet to be attributed to money that had been spent. So this was just a temporary accounting anomaly.

Bob explained that we don't yet know what our electricity costs will be, although he had tried to get an electrician to read the meter (now removed from the wall). His anticipation is that they might be as much as 50% of our running costs.

The books have now gone to Maitland Rankin, our Independent Examiner, for review. It was indicative of how the workload has increased, that there are now three folders-worth of information, rather than one.

It was noted that we now have five new Friends of the Town Hall which takes us to 63. This remains a very significant source of income for us.
7. Town Hall renovations progress report: The Board had received a summary of progress. Glynne updated the current position. Council contractors, Waugh's, are at work now, in parallel with our electricians. The electricity in the hall is off, apart from a supply for

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the workmen, and this means that hall activities are suspended in the meantime. We don't, at the moment know, how long this will take.

Various approvals are in train or approved: Listed building approval for air-source heat pump achieved. Planning permission in progress; defibrillator heated box approved – confirmation awaited; Planning permission for new position for lift is in train.

A contract has been agreed for the window repairs – work is likely to happen end Feb/March.

Our contractor has been on the roof for initial repairs. One side of the main roof showing nail-sickness which means an expensive additional job if we are to achieve that.

It is looking as if a lot of work will happen in late February and March, so we are pushing ahead with as much as possible at the moment.

The Board agreed with the proposal that a hatch should be installed from the lesser hall to the kitchen, despite Glynne having a number of concerns about it.

8. Youth Activities: A verbal report from Mary was passed on by Ann. This was to say that Olivia's post was going to be replaced (as she goes on maternity leave), by two roles – one being Olivia's equivalent and the other being an assistant to help on Monday evenings. Enquiries are already coming in. The aim is to get someone in post by mid-January if possible.

The trustees expressed appreciation for how well Olivia seemed to have done in her role.

9. Summary of past and future planned events:

LING Lunches have been running very successfully in Kitty's. The costs are pretty much breaking even but don't cover overheads. These are currently being covered by the extra grant we received to cover the relocation costs. Bob pointed out that, despite this being a concern, we have always run LING lunches, in a sense, as a loss-leader. One suggestion was that the high quality/cost of the lunches could be reined in a bit, thought this was met with a mixed response.

A Wassail Event is planned for 27th December. This is a new venture that arose from a suggestion from one of the regular 'lunchers'. It will take place in Kitty's.

A Volunteer Event was organised by CiC – held in Balmaclellan. It was rather poorly attended, but Angie and Olivia, representing LING, did a very good job and in fact got the highest number of people signing up as interested in volunteering for LING at the end of the day. Seven names were lodged. Angie and Olivia will follow those up.

In terms of Community hubs/warm spaces, trustees emphasised in particular the importance of joined-up planning and collaboration. For example, can transport be used in

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any way to link up different hubs? Connecting up in this way, would give greater strength and depth to what could be offered.

Planning a ceilidh for next year – the Whirligig cost of £1,500 was agreed to be too much and Angie should be asked to cancel that. The trustees unanimously felt positive about the idea of holding a more informal ceilidh, on a DIY basis. This could keep costs low and involve more community engagement. Melinda had agreed to discuss this in the New Year, with a view to organising it again. The last time this happened it had been very enjoyable.

A bid for grant funding had been lodged to help with a series of events to celebrate the opening up of the Town Hall. May would probably be the month for this and the proposal (suggestions having come from Angie), included a pre-school party, a primary age event with magician, a secondary school age silent disco, a tea dance with professional tuition, and then our Shore Road Ceilidh.

10a. Revising Business Plan: Poppy had reviewed the existing plan with Bob and Ann and tabled a summary she had put together as a basis for discussion.

- She suggested we might jointly review our mission statement - for example, adding in an intention to collaborate, co-ordinate and liaise. And that we needed to consider how to do this.
- We might include a summary of capital works undertaken (Glynne agreed to provide this summary.)
- Include numbers of members and Friends
- Consider a further community survey , but taking account of CiC survey and not over-burdening the community. Possible could link it with the launch event(s)
- In considering other spaces/assets in the area, identify our niche offer.

10b – Insurance: Poppy again tabled a paper, setting out the issues to be addressed. It was agreed to insure the Town Hall for £100,000. The alternative of insuring for a complete replacement of the building seemed inappropriate as a listed building, by definition, cannot be replaced as such.

11. Reports of sub-group issues and proposed actions:

i) Pathways: As David's paper had indicated, activity has been limited due to poor weather and previous storm damage, though some fallen trees have been dealt with and made safe. Timbers and other supplies have been bought to cover our needs for the next few years. And an arrangement has been agreed for maintenance of machinery.

David and Gerry are considering a request from the Community Council to attend a consultation. They are aiming to support a 'Paths for All' initiative to try to get something moving.

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David would be happy to support Angie and Barbara's Heritage Walks planning. The challenge is attracting people to sign up.

ii) Walled Garden: - Teri and Jon had indicated no need for a report on this occasion, but, along with them, LING Trustees wanted to acknowledge the sadness of Mike Anson's death. He had been a generous member of the community and had done many things for LING, including particularly at the walled garden. He will be much missed.

iii) Websites: Bob reported that timing is being negotiated but it is hoped that by the end of January the revised websites, both New Galloway Town Hall and New Galloway.com will be published. In the meantime we need to ensure some collaboration to include GCAT and NGCE.

13. AOB:

- Annual Report – a draft outline was tabled and comments were invited over the next few weeks
- LING's proposed new address of c/o New Galloway Post Office was agreed. Noted that we need to order new headed paper
- The question of pay uplift for employees/contractees was raised in relation to inflation and consequent cost of living increases - trying to discover what position grant-giving bodies were taking on the question. It was agreed that we had no contractual obligation to increase payment but that it was worth trying to raise the question.
- Date of AGM – Friday 24th February was proposed.

13. Date of next meeting: Friday 27th January