

# Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC047553

## Board Meeting

### New Galloway Town Hall

7.30 pm Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## Minutes

1. Present: Mary Smith, Ros Hill, David Hardy, Ann Glaister, Bob Glaister, Susan Dunstan, Poppy Gilbert, Neil Paterson

2. Apologies for absence: Lynn Gallacher, Glynne Shackleton

3. Minutes of meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February: These were considered and approved.

4. Matters arising: Re discussion of installation of a defibrillator near the town hall, as proposed by Susan and John, this was being pursued. Advice was being sought from Barney Fryer. Noted suggestion that the Community Council should be brought into the discussion.  
**(AG)**

5. Chair's report: Mary reported that she had met up with Peter Fryer, new Chair of GCAT, and that he would be keen to pursue partnership working with LING and looking for ways of improving communications. She also has a meeting planned with Margaret Watson, as Chair of NGCE.

6. Finance Report: The report had been received and was noted. Bob referred to the 'healthy' state of our bank balance and explained the restricted funds. On the basis of discussion, the Board agreed the proposal that LING would be able to commit an additional £10K to the capital developments (as matched funding) in addition to the Crowdfunder £5K. This would be based on the substantial donations from some LING members, on our own fundraising efforts from events, and on managing to protect some of our 'friends' income.

7. Report from Subgroup: fundraising: The report was received and welcomed. It was noted that we will be able to evidence to COF that we have achieved matched funding of £150,000. This will yield a total of £300,000, which should enable us to achieve most of what we need to do.

8. Town Hall Capital Works: Downstairs toilet is virtually finished. Flooring in passageway to be laid and leak to be sorted. Also, the dishwasher is now ready for use. Thanks to John Dunstan for help with this.

The Board considered and welcomed a revised plan for positioning the lift and looked at the implications in situ. It seemed to tick all the boxes in terms of allowing for pleasant access

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for anyone coming by lift, more open spaces downstairs and upstairs for arrival/reception areas, better space for storage and/or office/small meeting room space and the likely capacity to centralise services in one area. It also offers a small caretaker/storage area with sink off the lower hall.

9. Rescheduled AGM: Agreed that Mary would start with a brief acknowledgement of Sheila. The same agenda would be followed, but drinks served after formal business.

10. Events and Activities: Neil's paper was welcomed and it was noted how disappointing it was to be losing both Neil and Jilly, who have contributed so much – not just in practical terms but also in terms of thoughts and insights.

In response to details in the paper:

i. Lunches – it was agreed that these issues would be further discussed by Neil, Ros, Susan and David. **(NP)**

ii. Volunteers – the possibility of a community volunteering hub was seen as a good idea to be pursued further, particularly in the context of further co-operation with GC

AT and NGCE. This could be pursued in the context of Mary's conversations with Peter and Margaret. **(MS)**

iii. A LING leaflet. Neil is drafting a leaflet for delivering around New Galloway, which will describe what is happening and what is on offer. Agreed that this might be a folded A4 in size. **(NP)**

iv. In relation to capturing data/feedback etc, Neil will write up a summary of suggestions and recommendations. **(NP)**

v. Neil will summarise, for the next appointee, advice on managing events and activities effectively and sustainably **(NP)**

vi. Following a meeting with Ros, Neil will write up a guidance notes on managing the hall. It was agreed that there should be an annual reminder to users of the hall about health and safety issues. Also that feedback should be gathered from hall users about their experience of hiring the hall. **(RH and NP)**

General points were made about the need to pace events, but it was also noted that there had been a very impressive set of events and achievements – largely thanks to Neil's input.

11. Trustee Training Opportunities: After consideration of available options, it was agreed that the Board's preference would be for a whole group face-to-face training opportunity, and that David Link should be approached in the first instance to see if he could provide this a bit later in the year. **(AG)**

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## 12. Reports:

i) The Walled Garden report was welcomed and the issues it raised were noted. Aspects relating to the need for a lease of some kind to be set up, following the ending of the GGLP project next year. This needs to be progressed – probably initial conversation with Jon and Teri by Ros and Bob. **(RH and BG)**

ii) Pathways report was received and David expanded on the issues. These relate primarily to explorations in train to explore the extent of the storm damage, the costs involved in restitution and complying with regulations relating to sites of special scientific interest. The Alpine walk remains closed, but it may be possible to modify it and bring it back into use.

Conversations are continuing between Gerry and GGLP, looking at legacy issues. In terms of drawing on money still available for this project, stocks of timbers for future repairs are being laid in. There is a need to look at who looks after the non-LING pathways subsequently. Need for further planning meetings agreed. Mary to be involved as well as David along with Gerry and Jonathan. **(DH and MS)**

Noted also, that this needs to be part of the discussion about use of volunteers in relation to expectations and training provided. It was agreed that conversations and planning for events/activities in better weather would continue, building slowly towards a meeting and BBQ with volunteers, linking with Jon and Teri in the garden. **(DH and NP)**

iii) The New Galloway story report was received and welcomed. It was suggested that improved signage for the walks around New Galloway would be a help and these should be up by the summer. The suggestion that the Community Council should be informed about the Display Boards was agreed. **(BG)**. It was noted that the Shops Trail had not been achieved. It was agreed that the website plans need to be addressed fairly urgently now. **(AG, BG and PG)** Poppy's name is added here because as the meeting broke up, she expressed an interest in helping with this.

13. Job Adverts: It was noted that the three job adverts had now been posted on our website and our Facebook page and posters had been put up in various locations. They will be included in the Members' April Update message. **(AG)**

## 14. AOB:

i) Agreed we will need to advertise for another cleaner and should do that on the same basis.

ii) Plans agreed for dinner (probably a cold buffet) in celebration of Ros's contribution over many years – to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> April in the Town Hall.

iii) Bob informed that Board that he had put his name forward to be on the CAP Steering Group and, following an interview process, he had been accepted.

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iv) Noted – thanks to John Dunstan for his practical inputs, in particular the repairs to the external Town Hall Notice Board, which is really welcome!

v) Noted that PAT tests are due. Bob will arrange **(BG)**

vi) A landline phone for the hall has long been agreed and should be arranged **(RH)**.

15. Date of next meeting: 7pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May