

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC047553

Board Meeting

New Galloway Town Hall

7.00 pm Friday 27th January 2023

Minutes

1. Present: Mary Smith, Glynne Shackleton, Bob Glaister, David Hardy, Barbara Barker, Ann Glaister.

2. Apologies for absence: Poppy Gilbert, Ros Hill.

3. Minutes of meetings of 2nd December: The minutes of the meeting were accepted as an accurate account

4. Matters arising: i) re item 9, that the volunteers who had registered interest in volunteering for LING at the end of November were now being followed up. So far, all seemed to still be interested and meetings were being arranged. ii) also re item 9, that the suggestion of a 12th night Ceilidh had arisen. In discussion, there was a unanimous view that this would be a good idea. iii) re AOB, that £10 a month was being offered retrospectively to both our project officer and our events manager for phone expenses, which brought them more in line with the Youth worker. Also the Cleaner's pay had been raised by 50p an hour.

5. Chair's report: Most things were covered on the agenda, but to note that Angie's resignation has a number of impacts, although given the slight lull in activities at the moment, we do have some space. Work is underway on developing a new job description.

6. Financial Report: The report from the treasurer had been received by the Board. Noted that some significant grant funds had now been drawn down towards renovations. Looking ahead, additional costs are being noted that will be annual costs as a result of ownership of the building.

Noted that our current Examiner of Accounts has advised we may need to find an accountant now to approve our accounts as the sums of money involved are significantly larger this year and next. The search is on to find someone willing to take this on either paid or pro bono. Suggestions for seeking advice included, Creetown Initiative or 3rd Sector.

7. What Next?: Working through the 'What Next' paper proposals

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Proposal 1 – To encourage Angie to take on some helpful tasks in the interim, but then let it rest, apart from the food month commitment. We need to avoid confusion for a new appointee.

Agreed to bring Angie's role to a close before new person in post.

Proposal 2 – To rename the post – for example Community Inclusion Worker rather than Events, Activities and Inclusion Manager – but maintain the pay level, which is £17.50 an hour, given inflation.

Title of Community Inclusion Worker, CIW, agreed. Proposal to increase pay level to £18.50 an hour, since there is sufficient grant money to be spent and Trustees had agreed previously to look for ways to compensate for cost of living increases.

Proposal 3 – Expectations should be tightened and made more explicit in the job description and contract. It should explicitly include a focus on LING Lunches. The significance of the Town Hall, the Pathways and the Walled Garden should be stronger. Around 20 hours a week should still be our starting point.

Agreed re tightening of job description to ensure it supports ongoing LING work; suggested use of term 'facilitator' in job description; also explicit reference to 'supervision' as part of both roles – CIW to supervise Community Hub Host and volunteers, and Community Hub Host to supervise volunteers.

Proposal 4 - that this post might be called, for example, Community Hub Host

Agreed.

Proposal 5 - We arrange a few Tuesday lunch trips with trustees taking the load in terms of planning it – although Angie may also be approached perhaps.

Suggested that this should only be pursued if Angie is willing to manage it as we already have too much on our plates.

Proposal 6 - We engage a few trustees and volunteers as a planning group to take these ideas (about a May grand opening/ showcasing of the Town Hall) forward and to build involvement, enthusiasm and anticipation in the process.

Agreed. Group to include Mary, Bob, Ann, to approach Jo from Catstrand and ask members in next update for offers of interest in helping.

Proposal 7 Build aspects of these baseline functions into the roles of anyone we recruit as far as possible.

Agreed.

Proposal 8 - Some trustees and volunteers should, as a group, review Catrin's information and suggestions and bring a proposal to the Board with a series of stepped option (ie involving lesser to greater levels of activity and commitments on out part.)

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Agreed to set up a group to do this in relation to our Community Hub/warm space proposal – to include David, Barbara, Ann, Catrin and possibly one or two other volunteers.

8. Youth activities: Olivia had now left to have her baby. She has made an excellent contribution in her role, and has provided an update for the Board (circulated with these minutes) and a detailed briefing paper for her successor. She is keen to take up any opportunities to work with LING again in the future. Mary has given her a card and leaving gifts and would welcome any trustee contributions towards these.

New appointments have been made to replace Olivia. Sarah Kirk to the Youth Activities Development worker post and Ben Wells to the Assistant post. They will continue to run Monday evening activities in Dalry School with occasional outings. Links continue with GCAT who may take over responsibility for this in the future, which makes sense with a Glenkens focus. However, Cat has now secured further funding with an Arts focus. Whatever happens we would wish there to be a steering group with LING involvement as there is concern that what has been achieved by LING should be recognised and built-upon.

9. Showcasing Town Hall Plans: A verbal account of provisional plans for the opening up of the Town Hall with some 'showcasing' type events was given by Ann. Also the news was noted that we have been successful with our bid to support these costs - £800. On paper this gives us a budget of £2000 (£500 already paid for to Shore Road Band and the prospect of recouping some money from charging for events). Additionally noted that Geoff Davidson is creating a Concert for us to be held on Sat June 10th, which is excellent news.

Suggestions in discussion included: taster sports sessions with bowls and table tennis at least; taster dance sessions; young people involvement; a planning group to plan and oversee – (as listed earlier Group to include Mary, Bob, Ann, to approach Jo from Catstrand and ask members in next update for offers of interest in helping.)

10. Revising Business Plan: Draft not yet available, so discussion deferred. Noted concern that SOSE may press for this when we approach them for additional grant funding.

11. Annual Report: Approved in general, but noted that needed something to be added on the Jubilee Jamboree, youth activities, and the erection of noticeboards.

Noted that the Golf Club are happy for us to use the Club House for our AGM – on 3rd March.

12. Town Hall Renovations: Report had been received by trustees and concerns about timescale were noted. Positive response had been received from the School about children's input to a time capsule.

13. Reports of subgroups and proposed actions: i) Pathways - Work is restarting on pathways clearances. Revised project plan for 2023 will include volunteers involvement and

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reporting network. ii) Walled Garden – Legal advice re how to connect with Nick's factor is still being sought. Glynne will follow up potential Dalry connection. iii) New Galloway Story – have had to discontinue current web-designer as no progress being made. Will recontact BDS.

14. AOB: i) To note that there will be a day's holiday for the King's coronation in May. We may wish to take that into account in planning may events. Also the chosen focus for the day is volunteering, which we could link with.

ii) Biosphere connection via one of our new volunteers – agreed to invite a representative to come to talk to us at next meeting.

15. Date of Next meeting: Friday 17th march 7.00pm
