

## Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 7pm

**Present:** David Milne (in the Chair), George Unwin, David Metcalfe, Robert Stuart, Louis Fell.

**Apologies for Absence:** Judy Glover

### 1. Approval of Minutes:

Draft minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were approved, proposed by George Unwin and seconded by David Milne.

### 2. Actions not dealt with under this agenda. None.

Louis Fell provided missing Treasurer's reports.

**ACTION : Clerk to add the missing Treasurer's Report to the AGM minutes.**

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Louis Fell presented the Treasurer's report showing the position since 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Income for the period includes £100.00 from the sale of extra logs. Expenses include £1,100 for Domestic Appliance Scheme, £554.07 for the Parish Magazine, £825.60 Accountants Fees and £36.00 Bank Charges. Total at the end of the period £59,244.35.

Louis Fell noted that the Windfarm payment had not yet been received, he noted that he was chasing the payment. Louis Fell noted that the Windfarm company had a new contact.

David Milne thanked the Treasurer for his report.

### 4. Applications

#### a. Update : Ellingham Village Hall & St Maurice's Church.

David Milne extended an invitation to both Ellingham Village Hall and St Maurice's Church projects to present to the Community Trust. Both groups expressed their willingness to present to the Trustees when appropriate.

David Milne reported that Ellingham Village Hall wanted to await the outcome of the loan application form Northumberland County Council before updating Trustees.

David Milne reported that St Maurice's Church would be happy to provide an update at any time and noted that the project will not make any progress before Nov. It was noted that the St Maurice's Church project had to explore low carbon options for heating including looking at electric heating. The project will be on course once wedding season is over.

### 5. Review of Active Schemes

#### a. Solid Fuel Scheme

The Trustees discussed the Solid Fuel Scheme. The Trustees noted that there was a need to ensure that second home and holiday let owners do not apply to the scheme; and ensure clarity to avoid confusion. The Trustees discussed the range of fuel options. The Trustees agreed to continue with the current options, noting that the coal option needs to be smokeless or ovoids. The Trustees decided to offer a voucher for Williamsons of Berwick to enable parishioners to purchase the fuel type they need, rather than specifying.

The Trustees noted that the benefit of the Scheme was the bulk buying of solid fuel providing parishioners with better value than they could achieve individually. The Trustees noted that Parishioners highly value and appreciate the scheme.

# MINUTES

The Trustees discussed the potential suppliers for the 2021 scheme heat logs, noting that there have been supply issues in previous years. Louis Fell noted that the choice of supplier also affects delivery options, with an ideal situation of working straight from delivery to distribution.

The Trustees discussed dates for the 2021 scheme, noting their desire to get the scheme underway earlier this year. The Trustees agreed a deadline for the 2021 Scheme of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

The Trustees discussed distribution of the Solid Fuel Scheme forms. The Clerk noted that email contacts had been collected for the Solid Fuel Scheme communications and the application form can also be attached to the website. The Trustees agreed to additionally hand deliver paper copies to permanent residents, using local contacts to verify permanent resident status. The Trustees clarified the list of local contacts and agreed areas to be covered to ensure that paper forms are distributed to all permanent residents. David Mile requested that information is also put in to the Parish Magazine.

## **b. Domestic Appliance Scheme**

The Trustees expressed their desire to focus this scheme on energy efficient appliances. George Unwin reported that some parishioners applied to the scheme every year, and others do not applying at all. George Unwin reported on type of appliances purchased using the scheme. The Trustees agreed that future applications would be for a minimum of A+ rating. The Trustees discussed the list of items to be funded, and redirected the scheme towards energy efficient white goods and light bulbs with a minimum A+ rating, battery powered gardening equipment, carbon sequestering (i.e. tree planting), fitness equipment including bicycles, and health and wellbeing equipment. Trustees agreed that laptops should be applied for under the Personal Development Grant Scheme. The Trustees agreed that a change in name would reflect the change in direction for this scheme. The Domestic Appliance Scheme will now be called The Green Scheme.

The Trustees discussed whether repairs for items would be funded under this Scheme. Although only one repair had been funded since the scheme started, the Trustees noted that the Government is putting in place plans to encourage repair. As a result of this, the Trustees agreed to retain the repair element to this grant.

The Trustees agreed that the shift in direction for this grant scheme should be a guide for moving the Trust towards supporting greener projects.

**ACTION : Clerk to redraft application form and circulate.**

## **c. Personal Development Grant Scheme**

The Trustees noted that this scheme is underused. The Trustees discussed the uses for the scheme and suggested that it should be aimed at those in education, and those wishing to gain further skills within their existing career or in order to change career. The Trustees added laptops to the scheme, noting that this had to be for education or training use. The Trustees discussed the name of the scheme and renamed the scheme the Training, Education and School Support Scheme.

**ACTION : Clerk to redraft the application form and circulate.**

## **d. Main Application**

The Trustees noted that there would be limited funds for the Main Application, but that it was necessary to leave this application in place. The Clerk noted that the current application form for the Main Application was cumbersome. The Trustees asked the Clerk to redraft the application form in order to simplify it.

**ACTION : Clerk to redraft the application form.**

## **6. Update on Active Schemes**

### **a. Domestic Appliance Scheme (DAS)**

# MINUTES

George Unwin noted that two application was received since the last meeting. George Unwin noted that the Scheme was usually less active at this time of year. The scheme continues to be popular.

## **b. Solid Fuel Scheme**

New Solid Fuel Scheme to be launched after the meeting.

**ACTION : Clerk to put the Solid Fuel Scheme form on the website, and email to those residents who have signed up to receive it.**

**ACTION : Louis Fell to print forms for distribution.**

## **c. Personal Development Scheme.**

No applications received since the last meeting.

## **7. Chathill Interactive Lights**

George Unwin reported that work was still ongoing. George Unwin noted that further information needed from Swarco. The Trustees agreed to wait for this information prior to making any further decisions. George Unwin noted that costs have been incurred and the Trustees agreed to fund these costs. The Trustees expressed their continued thanks to George Unwin and electrician for their continuing hard work.

## **8. Any of Competent Business.**

The Clerk noted that she was on holiday from 26<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Louis Fell apologies for the next meeting.

## **9. Dates of the Next Meetings**

**Dates of next meetings:** 12<sup>th</sup> August, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**Minutes prepared by:** Virginia Mayes-Wright