

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 8th August 2021, 7pm

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

Apologies for Absence: Judy Glover, Louis Fell.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Draft minutes of 8th July 2021 were approved, proposed by George Unwin and seconded by David Metcalfe. David Milne commended the Clerk on the drafting of the minutes.

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

3. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the treasurer, David Milne noted the bank balance is at £104,963.00 with £45,919 income from the Windfarm and three Domestic Appliance Scheme payments.

4. Applications

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

David Milne discussed a letter shared with the Trustees by Ellingham Village Hall Committee to Northumberland County Council. The Trustees discussed potential timelines for Ellingham Village Hall noting that the longer the wait, the higher the materials costs. The Trustees reiterated support for the project and formally noted that the funds are ringfenced until we hear otherwise.

David Milne noted that there was no further update from St Maurice's Church but an update had not been expected.

5. Review of Active Schemes (drafts)

The Clerk had emailed drafts of the Schemes reviewed at the July meeting to the Trustees. David Milne noted the need for a formal launch for these schemes, and suggested the October newsletter formally launching the three relaunched schemes.

ACTION : Clerk to reinstate the old application forms on the website noting that new forms being available in October.

ACTION : Clerk to draft an explanation of the relaunch of the schemes for the website.

ACTION : David Milne to draft a press release for the October Parish Magazine relaunching the schemes.

The Trustees noted that the changes made to the schemes constituted a big change to the direction of Trust towards more overtly environmentally friendly schemes, in line with the changing political climate. The Trustees noted that the relaunched schemes may require more administration, especially if multiple item applications are made for the Green Scheme.

a. The Green Scheme

The Trustees noted receipt of the draft Green Scheme application form. The Trustees discussed the draft and noted potential for multiple items to be applied for within one application. The Trustees suggested condensing the last two areas creating condensing Fitness Equipment and Health and Wellbeing Equipment into Equipment for Fitness, Health and Wellbeing.

ACTION : Clerk to redraft the application form and email to Trustees.

The Trustees discussed the potential view of a contradiction of The Green Scheme and the Solid Fuel Scheme. The Trustees noted that the solid fuel acquired was sustainable, and the coal smokeless.

b. Training, Education & School Support Grant (previously Personal Development Grant Scheme)

The Trustees noted receipt of the draft TESS grant application form. Trustees discussed the draft and made a small number of amendments.

ACTION : Clerk to amend the draft of the TESS grant

The Trustees noted that the original Personal Development Scheme was underused and the resulting rebrand aims to make the scheme more accessible to parishioners. The Trustees agreed to review the relaunched schemes after 6 months.

c. Main Application

The Trustees noted receipt of the draft Main grant application form, supplementary questions and guidance notes. The Clerk noted that the guidance notes were considerably lengthy and noting that the Trust would have be limited funds for the Main Application, suggested noting this and placing a limit on this application. Trustees noted need to completely redraft the guidance notes. Trustees noted the need to reduce the limit for the projects owing to the existing commitments. The Trustees discussed previous projects funded through this grant scheme. The Trustees noted that applications historically were only available when funds were available. The Trustees suggested calculating the potential highest costs for TESS, Green Scheme, Solid Fuel Scheme and commitments to Village Hall and St Maurice's Church, in order to ensure that this scheme is affordable for the future.

ACTION : Louis Fell to model the scenarios for this fund for the next meeting.

The Trustees noted the need to reference support for the other schemes ahead of this grant scheme in the guidance notes. The Trustees suggested that applications for this grant scheme were brought to a set meeting at a quarterly or six monthly frequency. The Clerk requested working with a Trustee to redraft the scheme for discussion at the next meeting. David Milne volunteers to work with the Clerk to redraft the scheme.

ACTION : Clerk to meet with Chair to redraft the grant scheme.

6. Update on Active Schemes

a. Solid Fuel Scheme

The Clerk updated the Trustees on the figures for the Solid Fuel Scheme. To date 136 applications have been received. In 2020 the scheme had 147 applications. The 2021 scheme has seen 52 applications for heat logs, 47 applications for hardwood, 11 applications for a voucher form Williamsons, 22 applications for £200, and 4 applications for £100. The Clerk noted that there are 13 less heat logs applications, and an increase in 3 hardwood and one coal voucher on the 2020 scheme. The Trustees discussed and checked list to date. The Clerk noted that the scheme deadline had been reached but the Trustees anticipated that few applications are still to come in.

ACTION : Clerk to remove the Solid Fuel Scheme form from the website.

b. Domestic Appliance Scheme (DAS)

George Unwin noted that three application have been received since the last meeting with one application rejected.

c. Personal Development Scheme.

No applications received since the last meeting.

7. Chathill Interactive Lights

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George Unwin reported that after several attempts to mend the broken Interactive Light at Chathill, a new Interactive Light will be funded by Cllr Wendy Pattison. The Trustees thanked Cllr Pattison for her input. George Unwin reported that the electrician will be invoicing for the parts purchased. The Trustees reiterated their agreement to pay the electrician for the expenses incurred. The Trustees reiterated that once both signs are operational these will be transferred to Ellingham Parish Council. The Trustees expressed their continued thanks to George Unwin and electrician for their hard work.

The Trustees noted the need for traffic calming measures on the U2031 owing to three crashes in three months.

ACTION : Clerk to email Ellingham Parish Council.

8. Any of Competent Business. None

9. Dates of the Next Meetings

Dates of next meetings: 9th September, 14th October, 11th November, 9th December.

Clerk noted she may be unavailable for the 14th October meeting. The Trustees noted that the AGM has been agreed as 14th October meeting.

Minutes prepared by: Virginia Mayes-Wright