

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 10th June 2021, 7pm

Present: David Milne (in the Chair), George Unwin, Judy Glover, David Metcalfe,.

Apologies for Absence: Robert Stuart, Louis Fell

1. Approval of Minutes:

Draft minutes of 13th May 2021 were approved, proposed by David Metcalfe and seconded by Judy Glover.

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

3. Treasurer's Report

a. Treasurer's Reports

There was no Treasurer's Report owing to the absence of Louis Fell. Louis Fell had previously briefed George, who reported the bank position of £59,562.

The Clerk reported that she still hadn't received the Treasurer's Report for the April meeting or the AGM. The chair noted that the former would be provided before the deadline for the next Parish magazine.

ACTION : Louis Fell to email the Clerk with the missing reports from April and the AGM before 14th June to meet the Parish Magazine deadline.

The Trustees expressed the desire, now that the meetings were again being held in person, to receive the physical Treasurer's Reports at the meetings. The Trustees expressed how helpful these reports had been in the past.

ACTION : Louis Fell to provide the Treasurer's Report for this month to the Trustees by email.

4. Applications

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

David Milne had shared an update from Ellingham Village Hall. The Trustees noted the Village Hall Committee's concerns that the costs are increasing. The Chair noted that Ellingham Village Hall Committee are looking at Value Engineering to ensure the facilities and costs of the new build balance. The Trustees suggested that the Ellingham Village Hall Committee are invited to present the changes to Ellingham Community Trust, when this process had been completed and the loan position has been clarified.

ACTION : David Milne to invite Ellingham Village Hall to present at an appropriate time.

No further update from St Maurice's Church. The Trustees noted that St Maurice's Church plans showed work starting in November, to facilitate summer wedding bookings. The Trustees suggested inviting St Maurice's Church to a meeting to update the Trustees at an appropriate time.

ACTION : David Milne to invite St Maurice's Church to present at an appropriate time.

5. Review of Active Schemes

This was postponed until the next meeting owing to the short-term unavailability of two Trustees.

Although the formal discussion was not taking place, the Trustees had a general discussion and noted Ellingham Community Trust's commitment to the community, as part of the consultation for Ellingham Village Hall and St Maurice's Church funding, to maintain the funds for the schemes.

George Unwin shared the history of the Domestic Appliance Scheme, for the benefit of the newer trustees. George Unwin noted that the Domestic Appliance Scheme was originally aimed at encouraging

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parishioners to purchase more environmentally friendly household goods and noted that the Scheme had evolved over the years and now includes a number of grey areas.

The Trustees discussed the importance of ensuring the other schemes are similarly environmentally friendly. The Trustees suggested reviewing each scheme in turn to review the whole process from the application to the delivery. The Trustees discussed the challenges in the verification of primary residency for the applications. The Trustees agreed to examine how to better define this.

ACTION : Clerk to email the current applications and criteria to the Trustees to support the discussion at the next meeting.

The Trustees discussed the Covid Financial Assistance Scheme and noted how effective the scheme had been in the situation. The Trustees briefly discussed whether it would be possible to offer a hardship fund more generally, however this was noted as being very challenging to administer outside the confines of clear government support to individuals. The Trustees suggested discussing offering support and signposting to other organisations who can better support parishioners in need.

6. Update on Active Schemes

a. Domestic Appliance Scheme (DAS)

George Unwin noted that one 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

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the eight residents of Maxwell Drive and Carnaby Drive who had not applied to the 2020 Solid Fuel Scheme and had not received any responses.

George Unwin reported a note from Louis Fell requiring a decision to be made on the heat logs to ensure the best price.

The Trustees discussed the timings of the Solid Fuel Scheme, noting that the scheme tended to overrun. The Clerk noted that annually the Trustees planned to launch the scheme early, with difficulties arising causing a later launch. The Trustees agreed to launch the 2021 Solid Fuel Scheme after the Review of the Active Schemes at the meeting on 8th July. The Trustees agreed that this launch date, and a deadline for applications of 31st July should be publicised immediately.

ACTION : Clerk to publicise the 2021 Solid Fuel Scheme and deadline, putting a poster in the Parish Magazine and the website and emailing the mailing list.

c. Personal Development Scheme.

No applications received since the last meeting. The Trustees noted that this scheme is not very active, but those using it are very pleased to have the support from the community.

The Trustees discussed the Personal Development Scheme, and noted that the Trust had publicised it in numerous manners, and suggested that it should be continued to publicised in a similar manner.

7. Chathill Interactive Lights

George Unwin reported that after torrential rain one of the lights which had been fixed, stopped working. There had been a suggestion to check the solar panel and it was discovered that this was letting water in. George Unwin described the details of the corrosion of the components. The solar panel has been repaired and will be reinstated as soon as weather and schedules allow.

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George Unwin anticipated receiving a bill for the batteries, the Trustees noted that the volunteer who had paid for these must be recompensed. The Trustees expressed their admiration for the repair, and their thanks to George Unwin for his continues perseverance.

8. Any of Competent Business.

The Trustees discussed supporting the development footpaths in the parish to encourage walking, as this had been increasing during covid.

9. Dates of the Next Meetings

Dates of next meetings: 8th July, 12th August, 9th September, 14th October, 11th November, 9th December.

Minutes prepared by: Virginia Mayes-Wright