

## Ellingham Community Trust

**Minutes: Annual General Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

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

Members of the public including Graham Simpson, Nick and Sue Missin.

### **Item 1: Welcome and Introductions**

David Milne welcomed everyone to the AGM of Ellingham Community Trust and introduced the Trustees to the members of the public. David Milne noted that this AGM covered the period from June 2019 to summer 2020.

### **Item 2: Apologies for absence**

Robert Stuart

### **Item 3: Minutes of the last AGM**

David Milne read the minutes of the last meeting dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Louis Fell approved the minutes, seconded by George Unwin.

### **Item 4: Chairman's Report**

David Milne delivered the Chairman's report for the period of June 2019 to summer 2020.

2020 has been a challenging time for the community. The arrival of Covid 19 in early 2020 and the subsequent restrictions on both travel and socialisation has meant that some members of the parish have faced a difficult time in terms of their social mobility and finance. At the start of this, the Trust recognised the potential difficulties for the community and initiated a centralised, coordinated mechanism for the communication of information relating to all aspects of the virus, including the provision of shopping, prescriptions etc for people who were isolated and without support. In addition to this, the Trust introduced the Covid 19 Financial Assistance Scheme which provided up to £1,000 (in two grants of £500) for members of the community who could provide demonstrable evidence of financial hardship arising from the impact of the virus. This support was taken up by a number of people within the Parish.

The Trust also continued with the various schemes already in place: The Solid Fuel Scheme remains popular with the provision of renewable and hardwood logs, coal vouchers, and cash payments. These were delivered in time for Christmas 2019. The Trustees would like to place on record their thanks to the farmers and volunteers who helped with the administration, storage and distribution of the fuel.

The Domestic Appliance Scheme has continued to be popular with a range of applications for appliances approved by the Trust. The Personal Development Scheme has also received and approved a number of requests for personal development initiatives from members of the parish.

Finally, the Trust has continued to support a range of organisations within the community: The Village Hall, St Maurice's Church, the Parish Magazine and community defibrillators have all benefited from support by the Trust.

David Milne 2021

The Trust accepted this report, approved by George Unwin and seconded by Louis Fell.

### **Item 5: Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer Louis Fell noted that the report below is a summary of movements for the period. The Accounts for the year end 31st May 2020 were prepared by Northumberland Accountants.

Income

Wandylaw Wind Farm

£43,988

# MINUTES

Repayment for Management Costs	£1,201
Spare Solid Fuel Resale	£1,100
Interest	£149
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£46,438</b>

Income totalled £46,438, of which the majority of £43,988 was from the wind farm for the annual payment. The Wind farm reimbursed £1,201 of costs relating to the previous year. The Trust had surplus heat logs and sold at cost to residents the balance which introduced £1,100. A small amount of interest of £149 was received.

Expenses	
Solid Fuel Scheme	£30,436
St Maurice's Church Repairs	£6,548
Financial Assistance Scheme (Covid Support)	£3,000
St Maurice's Church Feasibility Study	£3,000
Ellingham Village Hall Feasibility Study	£3,000
Ellingham Parish Magazine	£885
Domestic Appliance Scheme	£3,674
Other	£7,798
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>£54,236</b>

**TOTAL AT END OF YEAR** **£69,390**

Expenses, grants and donations totalled £54,236. £6,548 was spent on repairs to the Church at Ellingham. The trust gave out £3,000 of Covid Hardship payments to help those in need during the difficult times. A grant of £3,000 was given to the Church and Village Hall committee to help develop their plans for the future and to get a better idea of the needs for community trust funds for the future. The successful winter fuel scheme costs totalled gross of £30,436 but £1,100 of income was received back in on surplus logs leaving a net cost to the Trust of £29,336. £3,674 was granted funded towards Domestic Application scheme relating to 37 applications during the year. The Trust again funded the cost of the parish magazine at a total cost of £885 for the year to enable all parishioners to receive the magazine free of charge. Other costs related to running costs. In total there was a net expenditure of £7,798 during the year. At the end of the year the net assets of the Trust stood at £69,390

Louis Fell noted that the expenditure was increased owing to a number of unexpected expenses namely funding the defibrillator at Brownieside, and the Covid-19 Financial Assistance Scheme. Other expenditure included funding repairs at St Maurice's Church, and £3,000 to both St Maurice's Church and Ellingham Village Hall for Feasibility Studies. The expenditure also included the regular outgoings for the Parish Magazine, Accountants fees (reimbursed by the Windfarm), thirty seven Domestic Appliance Scheme applications, and the Solid Fuel Scheme which was more expensive than anticipated owing to the Trust being let down by a supplier at the last minute.

David Milne thanked Louis Fell for the report.

Proposed by George Unwin and seconded by David Metcalf.

David Milne opened the floor for questions. Judy Glover asked about the auditing of the accounts. Louis Fell reported that the accounts were audited by the nominated accountants who are Northumberland Accountants.

## **Item 6: Retirement & Election of Directors**

All Trustees except Judy Glover and David Metcalfe resigned. David Metcalf retains the position of Vice-Chair.

# MINUTES

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chair. Judy Glover nominated David Milne, David Metcalfe seconded. David Milne accepted the position.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Treasurer. David Milne nominated Louis Fell as Treasurer, seconded by Judy Glover. Louis Fell accepted the position.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Secretary. It was noted that the position had remained open since David Milne had become Chair. David Milne nominated David Metcalfe as Secretary, seconded by George Unwin. David Metcalfe accepted the position.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Trustees. Judy Glover nominated George Unwin and Robert Stuart (in absentia) as Trustees, David Metcalf seconded. George Unwin and Robert Stuart both accepted the position with Robert Stuart doing so in absentia.

It was noted that George Unwin continues as second authorisation and David Milne as third authorisation on accounts.

## **Item 7: Appointment of Accountants**

Louis Fell proposed Michael Reed of Northumberland Accountants, seconded by George Unwin.

## **Item 8: Matters of Urgency**

It was noted that two large applications have been approved recently for Ellingham Village Hall and St Maurice's Church. While these application approvals took place outside the current AGM period the Trustees note their scale and importance to the community benefits their noting at this AGM. It was noted that in funding these large scale application, the Trust guarantees to maintain the existing schemes, namely the Solid Fuel Scheme, Domestic Appliance Scheme and Personal Development Scheme and retain a small reserve to act as a buffer against unexpected expenditure.

David Milne noted that Ellingham Community Trust is in a healthy position and continued to meet its objectives and support the community.

## **Item 9: Date of next AGM**

14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 was agreed as the date for the next AGM. It was noted that the current meeting was postponed from October 2020 owing to Covid-19.

Minutes typed by Virginia Mayes-Wright  
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