

Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 10th February 2022, 7pm, Ellingham Village Hall

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

Apologies for Absence:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Draft minutes of 13th January 2021 were not available owing to the Clerk's illness. Minutes to be signed off at the next meeting.

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

3. Treasurer's Report

Louis Fell provided the Treasurer's Report from 9th December 2021.

Income in the last period was £2.37. Expenditure is £400 for four Green Scheme applications, £900 for Solid Fuel Scheme cash payments, £500 for St Maurice's Church heating funding, £166 for Chathill Interactive Sign batteries and £18 for bank charges.

The Trustees discussed that the current bank position was very good. Louis Fell recommended that the first loan payment should be made to Village Hall ahead of schedule. After a short discussion, the Trustees agreed that the first loan payment of £12,500 should be paid.

4. Applications

a. New Application : Printing of the Parish Magazine

The Trustees discussed the application, and noted that the Parish Magazine was of great value to the community. The Trustees agreed the application unanimously.

b. New Application : St Maurice's Church Emergency Tree Works

The Trustees discussed the application for cutting of beech tree damaged in Storm Arwen. It was noted that Ellingham Estates are taking the tree down, but charging St Maurice's Church £3,000 for the works. The Trustees noted that this is safety issue, especially as the churchyard is a community asset used by the school as well as a verity of the community. Trustees discussed concerns about setting a precedent for further applications for tree works. The Trustees noted that as non-private land the application from St Maurice's Churchyard would not set a precedent for private landowners. The Trustees noted that this application is a one off, owing to the Storm Arwen damage. The Trustees noted that the application would ensure safe use of the churchyard by the community and the school. It was noted that various members of the community also support the maintenance of the churchyard. It was noted that the St Maurice's Church application included an offer to resell the cut timber. The Trustees agreed that if the timber was sold, St Maurice Church should reimburse Ellingham Community Trust.

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

David Milne noted the build of the Village Hall is progressing. David Milne noted no further information on the application for St Maurice's Church, but suggested that work might be undertaken next winter owing to the upcoming wedding season. Trustees are aware that both projects are progressing so no formal update is required or requested.

5. Update on Active Schemes

a. Solid Fuel Scheme

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Louis Fell noted that some payers were still outstanding, owing to the Clerk not chasing these sooner.

ACTION : Clerk to chase non payers.

b. The Green Scheme

George Unwin noted four applications had been made to the Green Scheme. George Unwin noted some confusion in relation to changes to the energy ratings with older models of white goods originally identified as A++ grade now being identified as a C grade. George Unwin requested discretion from the Trustees when assessing these applications. The Trustees agreed to George Unwin using his discretion when assessing these applications.

c. TESS.

The Clerk reported that no applications received since the last meeting. The Trustees noted that the new version of the scheme has not been applied for.

6. Chathill Interactive Lights

George Unwin reported that the speed signs are now back up and working. The Trustees congratulated George Unwin for his perseverance. The Trustees agreed that the lights should be formally handed over to the Parish Council, as Ellingham Community Trust was not the appropriate organisation to manage these lights.

ACTION : Clerk to write to the Clerk of the Parish Council to hand over the lights.

7. Any of Competent Business.

The Trustees discussed an event related to improving the awareness of the Trust. Trustees decided to review this when Ellingham Village Hall is completed.

David Milne noted that a Platinum Jubilee Planning Group is being set up to plan Jubilee activities. David Milne noted that Northumberland County Council is offering £500 grants to help communities to celebrate the Jubilee.

8. Dates of the Next Meetings.

It was noted that as power has been restored to the old Ellingham Village Hall building, meetings will take place in the Village Hall.

Dates of next meetings:

10th March 2022, 14th April 2022, 12th May 2022, 9th June 2022, 14th July 2022, 11th August 2022, 8th September 2022, 13th October 2022, 10th November 2022, 8th December 2022.

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