

## Ellingham Community Trust

Minutes: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 7pm, Ellingham Village Hall

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

**Apologies for Absence:** Robert Stuart

### 1. Approval of Minutes:

Draft minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were approved, proposed by Judy Glover and seconded by George Unwin.

### 2. Actions not dealt with under this agenda.

It was noted that the Clerk and Chair had not yet accomplished hand over of the database but that this would be undertaken after the meeting. The Clerk explained the plans to merge the Chair's database with that of the Clerk and to maintain a general distribution list and one for the Solid Fuel Scheme. Judy Glover noted that it would be helpful for parishioners to know who to send information to for circulation.

**ACTION : Clerk to put a note in the Parish Magazine regarding the distribution list.**

The Trustees discussed the aim to identify locations for trees. The Trustees noted the difficulty of finding suitable publicly accessible locations for trees for the Jubilee. The Trustees discussed potential locations and identified a possible site in Ellingham.

**ACTION : David Milne to ask the community contacts to identify locations in their areas.**

Clerk noted that she hadn't had the time to look at tree guards.

**ACTION : Clerk to get prices for tree guards for the next meeting.**

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Louis Fell provided the Trustees with the Treasurer's report from 10<sup>th</sup> March to date. Louis noted that income in the period includes bank interest of £54.11, the final outstanding payment for additional solid fuel of £100, and a Windfarm payment of £51,273.20. It was noted that the Windfarm payment represents a 11.6% increase, owing to inflation. Louis Fell noted that if the Trust receives 2% interest over the lifetime of the Windfarm payments, Ellingham Community Trust would be £88,000 better off, unless inflation drops to 0%.

Louis Fell suggested investing the additional monies, to ensure a fund for the future. The Trustees discussed the possibility of investing the additional funds to ensure an income for Ellingham Community Trust beyond 2039. Louis Fell also suggested the Trustees could also advance more of the granted funds to the Ellingham Village Hall Project to ensure they pay less interest on their loan. Trustees discussed this scenario. The Trustees noted that both scenarios required a clear understanding of the increased costs to the Trust, especially the costs of the Solid Fuel Scheme for 2022.

Louis Fell noted that expenditure in the period included three Green Scheme Applications of £300, grant payment for the Parish of Ellingham Photographic Archive project of £145.18, Bank Charges of £36 and the first payment of the St Maurice's Church Support Grant project funds of £10,990.00. At the current time the bank balance stands at £112,876.35.

The Trustees commented that this bank position would put the Trust in a good financial position going into the main expenditure of the Solid Fuel Scheme.

### 4. Applications

#### a. Update : St Maurice's Church Emergency Tree Works

# MINUTES

An update was provided on the removal of the Beech Tree in in the church yard. "A previous appointment has been cancelled owing to high winds. While this is hugely frustrating for all concerned, regard must be taken of the safety of those that will need to climb this very high tree. It is anticipated that works will take around 3 days to complete any weddings at Church are respected....The PCC remains most grateful for the generosity of ECT to enable this to happen.". The Clerk noted that since this update, a further delay has occurred.

## **b. Update : St Maurice's Church Support Grant**

A update was provided setting out the latest position with regard to the upgrading of power supply to St Maurice's Church. "The PCC is extremely grateful to trustees for their efforts on our behalf and invaluable advice. Sadly, however after some weeks of discussion with Northern Powergrid (NPg) is that the position remains as in the original application." It was noted in the update that there was additional urgency as there were only a few weeks before the validity of the quote expires. As the Trustees had agreed in principal to the funding, the sum of £10,990.00 has been advanced. St Maurice's Church express warmest thanks for the Trustees swift response which will enable the Church to move forward in the first stage of the project.

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

An update was received from St Maurice's Church regarding saving money on the routing of the cable underground rather than overhead.

David Milne noted that the Village Hall still on track for completion.

## **5. Update on Active Schemes**

### **a. Solid Fuel Scheme**

Louis Fell reported heat logs would be difficult to source for the 2022 season owing to the war in Ukraine. Louis reported that the Trust's usual supplier is offering heat logs from Canada at £379 per pallet instead of the £100 previously charged. Louis noted that he is awaiting further quote from local firm who can now vacuum pack heat logs, making them easier to store. The Trustees noted that this firm had previously let the Trust down at short notice.

Louis Fell noted that a potential local supplier had been found for hardwood logs. This firm has quoted for £93 per cube and could deliver to people's drive, but that the wood would be tipped, rather than delivered in a pallet. Judy Glover noted that this may be difficult for older parishioners. Louis suggested that using this firm, a voucher would be provided in a similar method to the voucher provided for coal to enable parishioners to place their own orders. Louis noted that this supplier would need an order placed this year in order to ensure the supply for the scheme in 2023. Louis Fell noted that for the 2022 scheme, a previously used company are quoting £280 per crate. This would result in a potential increase in £3,300 on last year's logs expenditure. Louis Fell also noted that as the log recipients would be getting a higher value, it may be necessary to increase the coal voucher to £280, resulting in an increased cost of the £8,000-£9,000.

The Trustees discussed the options presented and also an option to just distribute money to parishioners one off this year. David Metcalfe noted that if this system was used, the money would enable parishioners to put this towards electricity costs. The Trustees also discussed providing half pallets, to keep the costs to a similar level to the 2021 scheme, but noted the difficulty and hard work of splitting pallets. Judy Glover noted that Trust's ability to bulk purchase provided a greater volume of fuel for the parishioners than they could acquire themselves and therefore it was worth the time and additional money to provide this to parishioners. Louis Fell suggested another option of only providing hard wood logs rather than the option of hard wood and heat logs to simplify the 2022 scheme.

# MINUTES

Louis Fell recommended the Trustees wait until another quote has been received prior to making a firm decision. Louis noted that this quote would be received in the next couple of weeks. The Trustees agreed to this, and discussed timings of the launch of the 2022 scheme. David Milne noted that the August Parish Magazine deadline was 15<sup>th</sup> August. The Trustees agreed to launch the scheme in time to meet this deadline.

**ACTION : Clerk to prepare to launch the 2022 scheme to meet the Parish Magazine deadline.**

The Trustees thanked Louis Fell for his continued efforts in regards to the Solid Fuel Scheme.

## **b. The Green Scheme**

George Unwin noted that one application has been received since the last meeting.

## **c. TESS.**

The Clerk reported that no applications have been received since the last meeting.

## **6. Trustees Applications.**

The Clerk noted that four applications had been received for the position of Trustee. The Trustees noted the need for a couple of additional trustees from the applicants. The Trustees expressed appreciation of the high calibre and number of applicants. The Trustees discussed information received from the applicants, the need for certain skills, particularly in relation to the Trusts ongoing finances and a more diverse coverage of the Trust's outlying areas. The Trustee suggested appointing three out of four applicants in relation to their skills in the area of finance, and additional coverage of outlying areas of the parish; agreed unanimously.

**ACTION : Clerk to email candidates.**

## **7. Any of Competent Business.**

David Milne thanked the Trustees for their service as the outgoing Chair. David Milne particularly noted the success of the Financial Assistance scheme for the community during the covid-19 pandemic. The Trustees in turn thanked David Milne for all of his efforts, and wished good luck with new ventures and a new dream home.

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

**Dates of next meetings:**

11<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Brockdam, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

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