

CRASTER COMMUNITY TRUST

Meeting of Committee

Thursday 26 April 2012 in the Memorial Hall

1. **Present:**
Members: Chairperson Joyce Shaw, Kevin Brown, Doris Clarke, Michael Gibbs, Rosemary Gibbs, Bridget Kohler, Heather Lee, Elizabeth Pearson, Alan Punton, Jackie Reeves, Michael Robson.
2. **Apologies:**
Hilary Punton.
3. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 22 March 2012:**
Approved.
4. **Matters arising:**
 1. **Hall development**
 - a. **Progress report**

Chris Downs has received Building Regulation clearance.
Kevin is looking to help determine where radiators need to be located. If possible we should like to defer decisions on the siting of power points to discuss with the electrician on the sub-contract.
 - b. **Redecoration – Kitchen**

Concerns were expressed at how long it is taking us to get to the tendering process. It is recognised that the next step we have to complete is the design and ordering of the new kitchen. Kevin Brown has kindly undertaken to take this forward with Howden's and when he is ready we shall hold a special meeting to agree the order. A meeting has been arranged for 10:00 am, Saturday 5 May with Barry of Howdens to allow us to set up an account with them. It was agreed that Jackie Reeves as Treasurer will finalise the arrangements with Howdens, including venue as the hall is being used that day for an art exhibition.
 - c. **Clearing the Hall for contractors**

There was a discussion about what needs to be cleared from the Hall before the contractors move in. It was important that the whole Committee is consulted before any items of value are scrapped, given or sold. It was agreed that the crockery transferred from the Chapel should be retained for use after the refurbishment – in future users of the Hall will not be allowed to store crockery etc in the Hall but if needed will have to use that belonging to the Hall. Kevin is to take surplus old crockery for smashing in a stall at the Lifeboat fete. The wooden trestle tables should be retained as some organisations use them in fundraising events (for example the Lifeboat and Church fetes). The Chairperson reported that one table has been donated to Robson's. It was agreed that the present refrigerator should be scrapped and replaced. The built in cupboard in the Hall is to be broken up for firewood but the two freestanding (one in the Hall and the other in the kitchen) should be sold - Elizabeth Pearson will give the Secretary the name s of a contact in Rothbury to arrange collection and auction. There was some discussion of whether the organ transferred from St. Peter's church should be kept as it had been donated by Jimmy Bruce in memory of his wife. It was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting.
 - d. **Storage shed**

It was agreed that whether the Art Club wished to use it or not, there would almost certainly be a need for the shed and it should go ahead as in Chris Downs' plan. The

Art Club has advised the Secretary that it has made alternative arrangements for storing its display boards after its early Spring Bank Holiday exhibition. It will wait until it can see the new shed before deciding whether to rent it. The Club has been told that this is acceptable but that the Trust will probably allocate the shed to whoever asks for it first.

2. Review of the Website

Peter Howard's Visit Craster website is up and running.

Jackie Reeves reported that her son Laurence is working on the Craster community website, which should continue reporting the agendas and minutes of local organisations.

3. Playpark

a. Picnic table. The picnic table purchased by the Addy family as a memorial to her father has been delivered to the Playpark. It may need moving if we purchase new equipment to replace the rocking horses but should remain within the fenced in area. Mrs. Addy will let us know when they are ready to install the memorial plaque on the table as they would like some representation from the Trust for the occasion.

b. Kick about area – It is felt that Northumbrian Water has still some making good to do before the area is returned to the Trust. It has been agreed that a second set of goal posts are to be installed and some barrier needs to be put in place to stop unauthorised cars driving onto the land by the treatment plant. There is a question as to whether, the term for the original access lease having now elapsed, additional weekly rent should be charged until there is an agreed completion hand-over. The Secretary is to forward these issues to the Parish Clerk since it is considered that the Parish is handling the Northumbrian Water agreement on behalf of the Trust.

4. Federation of Northumberland Development Trusts (FoNDT)

a. Attendance – We are still looking for someone to represent us at these meetings.

b. Grant – We have been receiving Northumberland County Council grants through FoNDT but the County is planning to change this arrangement with funding being attached in some way to a strategy on promoting social enterprise. We should probably receive a grant this year while the new details are being worked out.

c. Oilcan – The energy club being promoted by FoNDT in earlier meetings is now being created by Community Action Northumberland as a county-wide Community Oil Buying Consortium. It costs £20 to join and membership is open to domestic households as well as to organisations. Savings are expected to be between £45 and £120 on 1000 litres. It was agreed that the Trust would wait for the Consortium to be established before considering joining.

5. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Alan Punton agreed to approach Dougie Hogg to find out how much it would cost to make a beacon to be set on Burn Hill. This is to be only a temporary feature. Depending on the weather there may be a picnic/barbecue with the lighting of the beacon.

The Parish Council plans to mark the occasion with the planting of an oak tree by the lonnen above the Bark Pots.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Jackie Reeves circulated a schedule showing the Trust funds at the year end, 31 March 2012 which amount to £135,837.77 (subject to any late adjustments). She had also prepared a schedule of the funds to date, 25 April 2012, £136,299.13.

6. Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

Esther Hingle had met with members of the Committee recently to outline details of the Highlights theatre scheme. A programme of events is circulated to the communities who join from which 1 -4 events per year can be chosen. Each event will cost £180 plus 80% of any excess on ticket sales – the community retains all refreshments, raffle etc. other income. It was agreed that we should join for an initial period of a year – last year's two performances may not have produced much income but were well appreciated.

Once the Hall was refurbished we might keep in mind the Pennydot Ceilidh Band (Liz Bracken 01289388419) and the Rothbury Hill Folk Band for future fundraising events.

7. Parking outside the Hall

The Secretary was asked to express the Trust's support for the Parish Council's efforts to control parking outside the Hall, especially when contractors will need access.

Date of next meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Trust will take place 7.00 p.m., Thursday 24 May 2012, in the Hall. (Apologies in advance from Bridget Kohler, Heather Lee and Alan and Hilary Punton).