

CRASTER COMMUNITY TRUST

Meeting of Committee

Thursday 28 June 2012 in the Memorial Hall

1. **Present:**

Members: Chairperson Joyce Shaw, Kevin Brown, Doris Clarke, Michael Gibbs, Bridget Kohler, Elizabeth Pearson, Alan Punton, Jackie Reeves, Michael Robson.

Members of the Public: Margery and Michael Taylor

2. **Apologies:**

Rosemary Gibbs, Heather Lee, Hilary Punton

3. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 24 May 2012:**

Approved.

4. **Matters arising:**

1. **Hall development**

a. **Progress report**

The Secretary, Michael Gibbs read out an email from Christopher Downs apologising for the delay in preparing the contract specifications. He has to be away next week but promised to have the tender documents ready the following week. Michael is to ask him to produce a firm timetable for completion of the refurbishment as so many matters depend on it – grant deadlines, keeping other users of the Hall aware of how long before it is available again, budgeting for loss of income in the meantime, storage only available till October.

(The Hall can be used at present for limited functions. Doris can offer it for a charity coffee morning.)

b. **Kitchen**

John Sharp of Howden's has advised that the prices they have quoted for the kitchen can be held if we pay a 10% deposit. It was agreed that the Treasurer, Jackie Reeves should issue them a cheque for £600 now.

c. **Equipment and other disposals**

Rothbury Auctioneers have advised Jackie that the sale of the furniture and equipment they took, has realised some £315, from which will be deducted their commission and collection charges.

d. **Grants**

The Chairperson, Joyce Shaw, reported that Councillor John Taylor has allocated a grant of £3000 from his community allocation towards the cost of the new heating system for the Hall.

2. **Review of the Website**

Jackie Reeves reported she was having some difficulty in changing the name of the website from Craster Community Development Trust to Craster Community Trust. Her son, Laurence Reeves is now free from exams and ready to start updating our community web-site.

St. Peter's Church Committee is happy for us to explore the viability of including the Net on the website, as too, its various duty rotas.

3. Playpark

Elizabeth Pearson reported her concern at the condition of the Playpark and Kickabout area. Michael Gibbs is to contact Mr. Pringle, who was nominated as the independent assessor for the reinstatement of the Kickabout area following the Sewage development, to ask him to advise us on what we might do to make the surface safe from the rocks that are emerging above the surface.

Kevin Brown is obtaining a price for fencing in the Kickabout area, to be paid from the Northumbrian Water settlement funds. There will be two swing doors for access and it is proposed to move the Addy's picnic table out into the new fenced area as it is considered there will be more use made of it there than in the Playpark.

4. Federation of Northumberland Development Trusts (FoNDT)

The next meeting is in July.

Michael Robson reported on a meeting of the North Northumberland Village Hall Consortium. It had had a presentation from the Conect4Change organisation but had felt membership of FoNDT met its needs adequately. There had been much interest in the OilCAN heating oil purchasing scheme.

The importance of ensuring good acoustics for village halls had been stressed. When we buy new curtains, they should reach down to the ground.

Michael Gibbs noted that the Summer Issue of Community Action Northumberland (CAN) News draws attention to Northumberland County Council's New Plan consultation, ending 15 August - Craster is seen as a 4th tier settlement (amongst other matters, this means we are not seen as requiring local recreational facilities).

The County is looking for village halls to register with it as Emergency Rest Centres. The Committee indicated it would be willing to consider this once the refurbishment is complete.

5. Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Jubilee beacon had been a great success with some 150 people present. The beacon cage is presently with Marion Hogg. It was agreed to pay £50 to Dougie Hogg, being half of the full cost – the balance might be paid by the Parish Council.

6. Parking by the Hall

The Parish Council has written to residents of houses neighbouring the Hall, asking for their co-operation in not blocking access when parking especially during the period of construction. The Taylors, registered their willingness to observe that request, while needing to protect their right to park by their house.

7. Highlights

Because of the delay in our refurbishment, Michael Gibbs has advised Highlights that we cannot commit to making a booking from its autumn schedule. We hope we may be able to choose from the spring 2013 schedule. Highlights has accepted this.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Jackie Reeves circulated a schedule showing the Trust funds at 27 June 2012 which amount to £134,982.67 (after the bill from the structural engineer had been paid). She had also prepared a schedule of the Hall refurbishment budget showing a small balance of funding available after estimated costs.

The 2011-2012 accounts have been prepared and audited by Mr. Shaw. They will be submitted for the Charity Commission required examination in August. Jackie said that she

will copy the accounts out to members of the Committee shortly.

The Treasurer is to be away for three weeks and, as before, the Committee agreed that the chequebook should be passed to Bridget Kohler in the meantime.

6. Northumberland Credit Union:

The Credit Union had sought views on proposed changes in its corporate membership rules. These covered the possibility of bridging loans for organisations awaiting payment of grants. Joyce Shaw reported that her husband, our auditor, had advised that at this time we do not look for Credit Union membership. Michael Gibbs said this advice seems supported by the Union's latest accounts.

8. St. Oswald's Way accommodation:

Susan Hofmann from Kirkwhelpington has approached the Secretary to see if Craster might be interested in joining a scheme whereby village halls along St.Oswald's Way offer groups cheap accommodation to groups undertaking the Walk. It was agreed that in principle, we should be willing to do so, but that once our refurbishment is done we shall need to work out what conditions we shall require.

7. Date of next meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Trust will take place 7.00 p.m., Thursday, 26 July 2012. (Jackie offers her apologies.)