**Belford Community Group CIO**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on**

**Monday 16th September 2024**

**At Bell View Resource Centre, Belford**

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|  | **Present:** | Pauline Tucker (Chair), Phil Dodd (Secretary), Jane Cowley, Ruth Dodd, Linda Wadsworth, Nikki Dunn  Hannah Pringle | **Action** |
| **1** | **Apologies for absence:** | William McLaren, Charlie Wadsworth, Amanda White |  |
| **2** | **Declarations of interest:** | Jane Cowley - Carpet Bowls |  |
| **3** | **Minutes of last meeting:** | Everyone agreed the minutes dated 17th June 2024 were accurate. Pauline signed them. | **PT** |
| **4** | **Matters arising:** | Nothing that wasn’t dealt with later in the meeting. |  |
| **5.** | **Finance** | Charlie circulated a report prior to the meeting.  Summary Points:  **Income:**  Income after 5 months is £20,224 versus a budget of £19,833. The shop is driving income and weekly sales averaging £800 (for a full week) is very good.  Gym membership has reduced a little over the summer.  The Gym received a Tesco Community Grant of £1,000 in July.  **Expenditure:**  Costs for the 5 months are a net of £8,297 after offsetting the insurance claim and a returned donation.  The insurance was renewed in July at £2,185, which is an increase of just 4% over last year’s premiums.  The shop insurance settlement of £983 was also made in July. | **CW** |
| **7.** | **Action Plan** | Juliet Short from Bell View was invited to the meeting, but was unable to attend at the last minute. She has put together two grant requests, which she will send in once she has completed the forms.  We have given the School a grant for them to continue with the Breakfast Club.  **Good Governance –** Pauline will circulate a list of policies which were forwarded by Martin Conway for us to complete. If as many Trustees as possible can take a policy to adapt to BCG’s requirements, then this would even out the workload. We can work on the policies over the winter and dedicate the January meeting to discuss. | **PT** |
| **8.** | **Village Website** | Not much progress on this as both Jane and Tony have been away. Jane hopes that Tony is able to do the work and perhaps change the domain name. | **JC** |
| **9.** | **Grant Applications:** | A request for funding from the Bowls Club was received in order that they can increase provision to include more players. This was circulated by email and the full sum of £300 was agreed. |  |
| **10.** | **Shop Committee** | Report from Linda.  A new till was purchased and has been in use throughout the summer.  New shelving was fitted in the gym kitchen and the stored stock (window display goods, good quality Christmas decorations etc) have been reorganised.  The shop opened on the weekend of the Arts Festival. Saturday business was excellent but a little quieter on Sunday. It was considered that it was worth opening and being a part of the festival.  The Shop Committee reported that the floor has lifted under the front door and that the door is difficult to close. It has also been considered that the shop frontage needs some repair work undertaken. Sharon would prefer this work to be undertaken in January when the shop is closed, although this may be difficult in bad weather. The door may need attention sooner.  Due to volunteer shortages in August and September, the shop has had to remain closed on a couple of occasions. There are a couple of new volunteers who have taken on a regular shift (including Linda) but they will continue to recruit.  Since the above report the issues with the door have become more urgent. Derek Allen and Colin came to look at it and the lock was replaced after the door had been lifted off and adjusted. Linda is getting keys cut. The floor rising in places is a trip hazard and Derek wondered if a mat in the recess by the door might improve matters.  The issues with the frontage also need resolving. Linda discussed all the options with Derek and another contractor, and a decision will be made as to what is the best option. | **LW** |
| **11.** | **Gym** | No report |  |
| **12** | **Woodlands** | Not a lot to report in the woodlands. The wildflowers we sowed last autumn, provided a very good display above the burn, near the oak tree. Lots of good comments. Hopefully, next year should be very dramatic, it does take time to become established.  It has been a miserable year for the weather - not enough nice sunny days, so the roses on the arch suffered as a result, as did a lot of other plants.  This autumn/winter there will be a lot of pruning to be done in both woodlands in order to keep the trees to a reasonable height (so we can prune them!). It's over two years since they were last done.  I have been speaking with the green spaces officer and the NCC ecologist about strengthening the banks of the burn in places. We need to let the vegetation die down, so we can get a good view of what's needed first.  We still have a big problem with an owner, allowing their dog(s) to mess in the community woodland, without picking up. It extends to the green near the oak tree and is a health hazard.  The dog warden is aware, but she needs evidence. Unfortunately, as I understand it, some people know who it is, but are reluctant to tell! | **Brian Rogers** |
| **13** | **Markets** | The last outdoor market of the year took place in August. Sadly a few stallholders did not do well.  Plans are moving ahead with the joint Christmas market with Bell View on Saturday 7 December. We are hoping that Santa may be more popular this year and more children may get involved. We might get some alpacas to attract more youngsters and the grotto might be in the car park. Rachel from Culture Creative hopes to be involved. Nikki has a fairly large gazebo with sides that could be used.  The idea of having the elves outside school to advertise the market might work. | **PD/RD** |
| **14** | **AOB** | Pauline advised the Trustees that she had met with William and he has advised her that he will be stepping down as President at the next AGM and Denise will also be stepping down as Vice-President. As we are now a CIO, it is felt that we do not need to replace these positions.  Karon was absent from the meeting, but she told Pauline that she had a conversation with the owners of a shop in the High Street regarding a pop up shop. Hopefully she will be at the next meeting and fill us in, although after a discussion, we wondered if we would be taking on too much just now. |  |
| **15** | **Date and time of next meeting** | **Next meeting:**  **Monday 21st October at 7.00 pm at Bell View** |  |