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**Directors/Trustees Meeting**

**Thursday 16 March 2023**

***Present***

Jill Patrick, Gavin Fleming, Stuart Ogg, Geoff Peart, Steve Barnet, Gill Bell, Douglas Johnston, John Steele, Nathan Anderton, Dan Williams

***Apologies***

Crawford Gordon, Mari Jackson,

Based on the previous agreement to rotate the Chair, Douglas Johnston chaired this meeting.

1. ***Appointment of new trustee/director***

Following the recent email communication amongst all the other trustees it was noted that Dan Williams would be a director/trustee filling the last remaining vacancy.

1. ***Declarations of interest***

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

1. ***Minutes of Previous Meeting***

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2023 were adopted as a true record of the meeting having been circulated immediately after the meeting for comment.

1. ***Follow up actions (Ongoing actions)***

All actions from previous meetings completed other than the following ones which are ongoing. Some actions have been updated following discussion at this meeting:

* SB and JP will continue to review GDPR statement. SB has now accessed other statements to see how these relate to GCT version.
* It was agreed that it was important to explain that any raffles organised by local groups should acknowledge the Trust having the lottery licence should they wish to be covered by it. MJ had confirmed she has spoken to the Parent Council about the licence.
* Following the previous discussion regarding local place plans, GP and David Millar from the Community Council had agreed to establish a steering group. Local place plans will be an important element in the evolving planning system. In future local plans produced by the Council will have to take into account the policies/priorities set out in local place plans. GP looking for volunteers to be part of the steering group which will initially involve one meeting per month. It was also noted that in future the replacement to EU funding would have to show community involvement. GP agreed to circulate the manual for local place planning.

**Action: GP to circulate the local place planning manual**.

* DJ noted that Anne Knox is happy to review digital accounts via Xero. Accounts had to be lodged with OSCR and companies house by the end of March.

**Action: DJ to submit accounts**

* SO Noted that he had recently given Carol updated trustee/director names. There were still two versions of charges on the website.

**Action: SO to resolve the two versions of community centre hire prices on the website with Carol**

* Outstanding issue regarding Fire Certificate etc. for community centre etc.

**Action: CG to check with Lee as Chris Blackstock may still be receiving them**.

* New electricity contract due in June

**Action: GF to speak to CG regarding any action that might be required**

1. ***Company Secretary Report***

GB noted that NA was now registered as a director with companies house, DW would be registered once he had completed the relevant documentation. All emails have been circulated.

Only £40 has been spent of the £500 allocated by Windfarm Fund for defibrillators. Still to confirm need for software update which will bring a cost. No response so far from Trossachs Search and Rescue so GB to follow up. Query as to whether the current defibrillators are suitable for use on children.

**Action: GB to follow up Trossachs Search and Rescue.**

1. ***Treasurers Report***

GF provided an updated financial report generated from the Xerox software. and invited comments or queries.

During discussion following points were made:

* Bite and Blether had generated a further £500 with a similar amount to be passed over. JP was thanked for all the work on Bite and Blether.
* Most income in January and February reflected grants for projects, including SUSTRANS funding for topographic study for the Gargunnock to Stirling path, the Windfarm Fund administration and Net Zero project for the community centre.
* Current bank balance amounts to £34,000
* Windfarm monies still to be allocated is circa £38,600
* Donation from Mr. Brodie relates to work DJ and Jane have been doing to clear logs from his garden.

1. ***Community Centre Report***

DJ explained the need to raise further funding for solar panels due to condition of existing slates. In-roof panels will now be installed and CARES have agreed to consider paying additional costs of panels and an application has been approved by the Windfarm Panel to cover the additional costs of removing the slates. Once CARES has confirmed funding DJ will arrange new start date with contractor.

It was noted that the slates will be retained for future use if suitable. DJ estimate that replacing slates on front of building, which will need to be done in next 5 years, will cost around £30k.

1. **Windfarm Fund Panel applications**

It was noted that the Windfarm Panel had considered and approved the recent application for additional funding for the removal of slates at the community centre.

1. ***Projects Update***

**Bite and Blether**

JP indicated that Bite and Blether was going very well and she thanked SB, SO and others for helping put out tables and chairs.

**Village Shop**

DJ reported that he had heard nothing from the Gargunnock estate, however, Scottish Land funding had been secured for stage 1 which will involve a comprehensive architect and structural survey of the property to assess what it will require to bring it up to an appropriate standard and make it zero carbon. Also been invited to move to stage 2 which could see funding covering up to 90% of purchase.

There is also the possibility of funding being available through the Community Ownership Fund which could cover up to 50% of the purchase price and refurbishment plus one year of ownership. It is more likely that an application will be made for the October round given the requirement to carry out a comprehensive survey and assessment of what the true cost is likely to be.

During the follow up discussion various issues were raised including VAT, possibly getting someone from Gartmore, where the community owned shop has now closed, to speak to the trust and whether the building would be subject to business rates.

**Gargunnock to Stirling path**

GP explained that a further meeting had been held with Stirling Council. They are now in ‘pole position’ regarding negotiations with land owners. They are also in the process of sending out chasing letters. Further meeting is scheduled for 3 April. The District Valuer has been instructed to undertake a valuation of the land required for the path.

In the interim consultants have been commissioned to establish the views of people with protected characteristics on the proposed cycle path. The funding for the detailed design stage of the project has been allocated however until there is land owner agreement in place no further investment in this stage will be made.

On a related matter, discussions have taken place regarding the condition of the roads in the village in the context of the world cycling championships with one of the races scheduled to one through the village.

**Beeches Path**

SO explained that he had submitted an application to the Ian Findlay Path Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund.

**Hill Path**

GF reported no further progress as it requires new volunteers to take it forward. He explained that he had identified two people interested in helping with the project but it needed someone to lead it. The consultant’s report has been completed and circulated to landowners/farmers. Someone now needs to follow up with these stakeholders and then revise the plan if necessary, and if there is agreement take forward the project by securing funding etc. JS indicated he might be interested.

**Action: GF to set up meeting with JS and other volunteers.**

**Pond and Glebe Park**

Everything progressing well with maintenance of trees ongoing, raptor boxes installed and wildlife thriving.

**Pump track**

JS explained background to the idea especially as a facility for younger people in the village. Further discussion about possible location which could be in filed next to the Drop-In Centre as part of the wider development.

1. ***Newsletter***

All going well with newsletter.

1. ***AOB***

GF noted that MJ would be meeting the Paul and Mathew at the pub to discuss the Drop-In Centre. MJ has agreed to pursue a Windfarm Fund application for a piece of work to visualise the proposed works in the field. It will then require outline planning permission and discussion about asset transfer with the Council.

**After discussion the trust approved the proposed actions**

DJ reported he had recently met with MSP and discussed the spin-offs from the earlier work on the Community Centre re: establishing office space for small businesses.

It was noted that there is lots of equipment stored in the Community Center which could allow volunteers to set up new activities/club e.g. sound system, indoor bowls, card tables, table tennis etc.

**Action: SO to prepare short article for next Bugle highlighting availability of this equipment.**

SO raised the possibility of the trust holding a clubs/activities event at the Community Centre later in the year similar to one he recently attended at Thornhill. DW and NA expressed an interest.

**Action: SO to set up meeting with NA and DW to discuss plan for event.**

JS raised issue of installing additional defibrillators in the village; key issue is identifying possible locations with a power supply.

**Action: SO to prepare Bugle article seeking ideas from village as to how additional defibrillators could be introduced.**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

1. ***Date of next meeting***

Thursday 18 May – (Chair - Jill Patrick)

1. ***Future Trust meeting dates***

Thursday 24 August – (Chair – Steve Barnet)

Thursday 26 October – (Chair – Gavin Fleming)

Thursday 7 December – (Chair – Crawford Gordon)