

Newtown Community Association – Annual General Meeting

Saturday 14th May 2016 at 10 am

in the community hut in Belmont Park

Minutes

Present: Su Aves, Fiona Daughton, Chris Dent, Suaad George (Exeter Respect), James Leigh (Hut maintenance), Francesca McClure, Rory McNeile (Chair), Peter Montgomery (Webmaster), Michael Parrott (Vice-Chair & Publicity), Roger Spackman (Councillor), John Staplehurst, Nic Unsworth (PCSO, D&C Constabulary)

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
1	Welcome from the Chair Rory McNeile welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	Apologies for absence: Derek Burnside (Treasurer), Jackie Holdstock (Bookings), Sally Palmer, Steve Palmer, Saxon Spence	
3	Review of minutes of the previous AGM meeting. The minutes of the 20 th Feb 2016 were approved and signed by the chair. Chris Dent agreed to jointly audit the accounts with Derek Burnside.	
4	<p>Election of the Management Committee 2016/2017</p> <p>Sue Aves explained that she has spoken to Simon Bowkett (of Exeter CVS) who has confirmed that we can continue without a secretary as long as minutes are documented and that procedures are carried out as per the rules of the Charities Commission.</p> <p>Councillor Roger Spackman asked what the boundary of Newtown in respect of the community association was following the recent change in the political electoral ward. Rory McNeile confirmed that the boundary would not be changing. Councillor Roger Spackman proposed that the constitution be amended to read "The are of benefit shall be the former electoral ward of Newtown, Exeter, Devon, UK, as it was defined in 2013". Everybody at the meeting agreed with this and the committee will amend the constitution and inform the Charities Commission.</p> <p>Rory McNeile confirmed that he could not be elected as Chair as he no longer lives in Newtown. However, he can be co-opted on to the committee and be appointed as Chair by the committee at the next committee meeting.</p> <p>The following individuals were elected to the committee:</p> <p>Vice-Chair & Publicity – Michael Parrott (proposed by Sue Aves, seconded by Roger Spackman)</p> <p>Treasurer – Derek Burnside (proposed by Peter Montgomery, seconded by Fiona Daughton)</p> <p>Community – James Leigh (proposed by Peter Montgomery, seconded by Sue Aves)</p>	RM/MP
5	Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts In the absence of Derek Burnside, the latest financial figures from the bank satement of 13 May 2016 was read out by Michael Parrott (see separate Financial Report)	
6	<p>Newtown and St Leonards Ward Councillors Update</p> <p>Councillor Roger Spackman was congratulated after becoming elected at the recent city council elections. Roger apologised that he has not been able to make the public meetings recently as he often works on Saturdays. Roger confirmed that consultation continues with regards to the bus station development. There was the possibilty of student flats being built in Belgrave Road. Roger said that that with increasing student numbers in the city it was important that more flats were available as otherwise students would have to live in HMOs and that there are less students now living in houses in local areas. Chris Dent asked whether a planning application has been submitted to the city council in respect of the student development, Roger was unsure but confirmed that he will check.</p> <p>Rory McNeile confirmed that NCA have spoken to MACE who are the developers wanting to build the student development. This is in respect of possible funding for the Vision Project, MACCE have said that they will give a contribution to the Vision Project, it is unsure what this amount will be. Sue Aves confirmed that at no point has NCA approved or disapproved plans for student developments and only contact developers if developers are happy to help the community. Rory asked that if anybody had any issues to contact the committee.</p>	
7	<p>Police Report</p> <p>PSCO Nic Unsworth confirmed that both the PCSOs and Police Cadets are very busy, he is now involved in covering Newtown, Heavitree and Polsloe. They recently managed the Exeter Pride events and will be at the Repsect Festival. The Police are aware of recent problems in the sensory garden within Belmont Park. Close to the Newtown area two evictions have recently been imposed following anti-social behaviour. Following recent egging incidents in Blackboy Road the Police have spoken to four households and since then there have been no reports of any similar incidents in the last month. The Police have not been made aware of any other incidents, except for the recent damage in the</p>	

	NCA community hut. Student noise as reduced.	
8	University Wardens Report. There was no report available and no university wardens were at the meeting.	
9	<p>Hut Issues. Rory McNeile explained that there had been significant problems at the hut on two occasions recently. On both occasions the hut was used by young people (circa 18 years of age). The Police were called on the first occasion. On the second occasion a lot of damage was caused – three doors were damaged, handles broken off doors, a lot of mess left, and the rhino was damaged. This was reported to the Police and a Crime Reference Number obtained. Rory has spoken to the person who booked the hut and they have said that they will make good and pay NCA for the repair/replacement costs, NCA have been given an indication of circa £300-400. The plan is to get the work done and then ask those that booked the hut to pay NCA. If there are problems with this then NCA could go back to the Police as we have a Crime Reference Number. Fiona Daughton, who went to the park with John Staplehurst on the night of the second incident as they could hear the noise from their home in Portland Street said that the people who had presumably booked the hut were not in charge of the other teenagers and that the party had been gatecrashed. Fiona also said to the meeting that when there are private evening parties in the hut she cannot be assured that artwork from the Art Group can be left in the hut and has had to take items back to her home for safe keeping including the rhino.</p> <p>Rory confirmed that the hut rules are that the hut is left tidy and emptied by 11pm, doors and windows closed, no music outside, and respect is given to the local neighbourhood.</p> <p>Suaad pointed out that a lot of people use the hut including many families who would not be able to afford an alternative venue, and she hoped that the committee did not ban all parties as a result of the recent damage and disturbances.</p> <p>Su Aves suggested that the committee review the rules and that they could check the church hall's rules for guidance.</p> <p>Roger Spackman suggested that a deposit is paid by users. Rory confirmed that this has been discussed before but this means that someone has to manage the deposits and nobody is available to do so at this stage.</p> <p>Rory said that the committee had discussed the problems and that he had received calls from residents on Gordon Road complaining of noise. The committee was trying to find the right balance. One idea would be that the person who makes the booking needs to be a certain age (e.g. minimum age of 25, or “a responsible adult”). Roger Spackman suggested that we could state in the rules that it is also the responsibility of the hirer to contact the Police if things do get out of hand.</p> <p>Peter Montgomery suggested that we state in the rules that private bookings are not publicised on social media. Rory confirmed that the wordings of the rules would be reviewed by the committee.</p> <p>A carpenter is coming to the hut on a few Sunday mornings to carry out the repairs to the damage.</p> <p>With regards to Health & Safety at the hut and in the park James Leigh pointed out that there was a huge area of broken glass in the park. Rory McNeile confirmed that he had spoken to a park worker this morning who was aware of the glass. It is wondered whether this came from a party last evening.</p>	RA/MP
10	<p>Exeter Respect. Suaad George confirmed that the event was taking place at the park on 11 & 12 June. Suaad showed a map of the site which will be very similar to last year other than that there will be more stalls. Bio-diesel is being used (as per last year) and a generator will be used to avoid having to use the power from the hut. Suaad suggested that NCA could become more involved in 2017 which is Respect's 20th anniversary (it will also be NCA's 30th anniversary), this would allow NCA's logo to be used on Exeter Respect literature. NCA flyers can, this year, be left and also distributed to visitors to Exeter Respect at the information point. NCA members can be involved in this.</p> <p>Suaad explained that it had been discovered that the Gordon Road wall was wobbly. Suaad reported this to authorities and after a while it was discovered that Devon County Council were responsible for</p>	RM/MP

	the wall. The wall is now going to be made safe, barriers have been put up in the park close to the wall.	
11	Park Play Equipment An anonymous donor recently gave 110 pounds towards play equipment. DCC have given 500 pounds, and ECC £900. A replacement slide will cost 45k. NCA needs someone or a group of people to get together to champion this cause. Rory has spoken to Debbie Thomas at the new Newtown Pre-school who was interested but did not have the capacity at present to champion the cause. Rory had heard from a few people that there was not enough equipment for teenagers. Michael will check if the play equipment has been mentioned on our Facebook page, and will speak to Elena about this and also about promoting the Facebook page as much as possible.	MP
12	The Vision Rory explained that Michael Carson of Exeter City Council's Planning Department has spoken to MACE who are hoping to build the Belgrave Road student development. Approximately two weeks ago MACE said that they would make a contribution towards the Vision Project in addition to making a SILL contribution. Rory has also spoken to Passive Architecture with regards to a 'passive building' who suggested that we erected a shell of a building which might then generate community interest and increase our chances of obtaining the remaining funding that is required. Peter Montgomery asked whether the shell of the building could be used. Rory confirmed no it could not be used. Chris Dent said that he was concerned about having a shell of a building in the park and then waiting to see if we could obtain the remainder of the funding. Councillor Roger Spackman said that Exeter City Council were having more passive homes being built and wondered whether our project could be tacked in with another passive homes project. Roger will give this some more thought.	
13	Exeter Community Forum Update Rory has been regularly involved in the Exeter Community Forum representing NCA and has also been involved in the steering group. The Community Forum's strategy has been developed and publicised, it still needs to be approved by Exeter City Council. There is a three year action plan. In year 1 approximately three or four roles will be formed to work with community groups for funding plans etc. A Grants Panel will be launched in September 2016 (for grants between £1k-50k) with the first decisions being made in November 2016. There would be approximately £350k in the pot across a 10 year period although this amount is expected to increase. All bids would need to be approved by Exeter City Council. There is a Health & Well Being event taking place at the Corn Exchange at the end of June or beginning of July which will connect community groups together.	
14	Future Events 3,000 flyers have recently been printed to promote the NCA and our list of events. Sue explained that since the flyers had been approved and printed the date of the Table Top Swap Cafe had been changed from 16 October to 9 October. The Choir may hold a Choir Cafe as confirmed by Peter Montgomery. More leaflets (with revisions) will be printed in time for the Respect Festival in June. Roger Spackman suggested that there may be space in the local Labour Party newsletter to advertise our events.	
15	AOB Sue Aves explained that the revised constitution wording would need to be sent to the Charities Commission. Sue will give Rory the log-in details for the Charities Commission website	SA/RM
16	Date of next Forum Meeting Saturday 3 September at 10:00	