

Newtown Community Association Meeting Monday 26th January 2015 at 7.30 pm

Minutes

Present: Su Aves (Secretary,) James Leigh (Hut maintenance), Rory McNeile (Chair), Michael Parrott (Vice Chair & Publicity), Jackie Holdstock (Hut Bookings Manager).

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
1	Apologies: Derek Burnside (Treasurer)	
2	Review of minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the 8 th Dec 2015 were approved and signed by the chair. Winter warmer went well. Rory will look for the electrical conditions survey certificate, Su will check if it is in the general file. If not found Rory will get an electrician in to check the electrics of the hut.	SA RMcN
3	<p>Treasurer's report. NCA end of year provisional accounts to Dec 2014.</p> <p>An email from Derek states: Rory rightly asked whether the fact we broke even last year before taking into account any additional grant income means we should reconsider the need to raise our rent costs. I'd personally counsel that we still should make a modest raise, mainly because in 2014 we only had a part-year impact of the significant hike in our energy costs (from £120 to £169 pcm , that took effect in September. If you're wondering why 2013's fuel costs were actually higher than 14s it's because we had a one-off additional bill of £220 in the March, rather than the increased monthly tariff we now have. Anticipated fuel bill for this year is £2028) If we don't raise rent I suspect we will be reliant in 2015 for grant income to cover our essential running costs – although the committee may be willing to see that happen and for some of our significant reserves be used to that end.</p> <p>The account looks healthy. Income from hut hire is about the same as last year. Increase in income, including grants brought in this year, is noted. Increase in energy costs have been noted. Hut income is consistent over last two years. Events income increased this year.</p> <p>Qigong is now paying for itself at the moment due to having more members.</p> <p>Thanks to Derek for the provisional accounts which will be independently examined by Exeter Community Accounting for our Annual Report for Dec 2014 end of financial year, for the Charity Commission.</p> <p>Copy of accounts on attachment.</p>	DB
4	<p>The Vision Update (RMcN) – University Support update</p> <p>Our aim is to resubmit in the summer to the lottery bid. We are trying to take forward the original design, which will depend on the funding we succeed in attaining. Rory wrote to the university as suggested by Richard Branston for help to put together the bid. He had a response from Geoff Pringle's office. They will meet with Rory. Geoff has received background information from McCann that NCA gave him and so would now like to know how the project has progressed since. The letter is from Frances Vowles from the University Estate Development Office. Rory, Derek and Michael will meet with Geoff Pringle. Now they will also look at Garfield Weston Fund. The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation said they should respond by last month. No</p>	RMcN, MP, DB

	<p>response received so far so Rory will contact them.</p> <p>Alternative cheaper log built building at Countess Wear Primary. James and Su had a meeting. Looked a possibility. Waiting to hear from company that build them. Su and James will go to see the building. Visit before AGM and report back at this. Footprint would need to be bigger. It cost £90,000 for building at Countess Wear. Even if our footprint needed to be twice as big, the price would still be less than our current design but we are not sure if it would provide what we need. The one at the school has a kitchen, toilets and a classroom. James will take photos of it when visiting and get more information from the company.</p>	JL, SA
5	<p>Parks and open spaces feedback (R McN)</p> <p>Dawn Rivers sent a feedback email from the February 2014 event at the Corn Exchange looking ahead at devolving responsibility for the parks and open spaces: there is now a contact data base set up at the city council so information can be shared on request between the groups, there is a virtual resource to share what groups are doing on a Facebook page 'Exeter Parks' where groups can share information about their local park. They suggest we ask for financial details from ECC if we want to take on any responsibilities, as they have done a breakdown of costs and income for specific sites. There is a map at ECCParks&OpenSpaces on the council website. Initial concerns at the Corn Exchange meeting: Public Liability insurance - each group will need to get their own and ECC community grants may be able to support the cost of this, Shared agendas will help other groups - Exeter Parkswatch supported a number of groups to enter Britain in bloom In 2014. Does NCA want to do it in 2015? Not unless someone outside the committee, who is enthusiastic, takes it on. Exeter CVS in partnership with Bicton College are offering training 'Growing People, Growing Places' - Personal development through horticulture. Find out more learn@exetercv.org.uk</p> <p>CVS has launched a new funding support website www.open4community.info/exeter1. There is funding available from ECC community grants and Exeter Board. Advice on licensing, constitutions etc available. Work with individual groups for transfer of assets discussed with the council to make sure there is strong community accountability.</p> <p>If there is interest for taking on responsibilities for whole or part of park/hut or for greater involvement – get in touch with Dawn Rivers – Community involvement and inclusion officer.</p> <p>MP will make the Facebook link with our NCA Facebook page.</p>	MP
6	<p>Hut Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise concerns: Complaint received, group was approached for an apology. Letter of apology for any noise has been received although they feel they did not make excessive noise, also a payment for the extra time the hut was used has been received. Complainant has been invited to come to our Forum meetings or to our AGM to discuss concerns so as a community we can discuss this matter if anyone wants to bring up further concerns. - New wording on hut rules: as decided in December minutes the rules will be amended. Late bookings are only being taken for Friday and 	JH

	<p>Saturday nights at the moment. Let hirers know that we do not want to lose the use of the hut and that they must be aware and considerate towards the people living around the area. We have put signs in the hut asking for consideration as people leave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise charges? It is possible that the council grants may not be granted this next financial year considering the cuts they have to make to spending so we need to consider this when deciding whether to raise the rent such as the grant to help cover the hut rent from ECC which is £2000. Also due to increase in running costs such as the electric costs the committee has voted unanimously that the rent should be increased. It will go up starting from the AGM for any new requests to hire received by Jackie Holdstock from 21st February. It will now be £6 /hour regulars (it was £5) and £7.50 for occasional users (it was £6). - Repairs/Health and Safety (JL/Joan Bond) Two broken lights to be checked and two heaters checked by an electrician. Cupboard door has had screws replaced. The gloss paint around the hut is getting muddy so it could do with being cleaned- a cleaning party could be organised. Also ask university wardens for a working party to paint the emulsion walls. Committee to look at paint at the AGM to decide what needs doing. Look at hole in door and what to do about it. James will be meeting Joan about H and S. - Hut advertising board? Agreed the wording to advertise the NCA on a notice to go on hut side facing Belmont Road. RMcN to order notice. James to suggest choice of notice boards by email to committee to go next to door for NCA to put notices in so a decision can be made by email. - Football wall update (JL) New wall is going ahead this month. Insurance coverage done by city council. 	<p>JH</p> <p>JL and JB</p> <p>RMcN JL</p>
7	<p>Future events: Hosting Exeter community associations to discuss CIL: Su to contact WCF pioneers to see if they can move for 19th March so we can have a meeting in the hut. If not then have it at Belmont Chapel. Rory to talk to Derek to see if we can have it at a later time?? Better in the hut. Exeter City community groups. Alphington, St Davids, Newcourt, NCA, Topsham. This is to discuss possible Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) spending (replacing section 106 money for planning applications). Newtown probably will not get CIL money next year. Organised by Diana Moore (Alphington Village Forum), Jo Hawkins (Exeter St James Forum), Derek Burnside (Newtown Community Association)</p> <p>Cycle Tour finish venue: Provisional booking from cycle group on Sunday 31st May 2-10.30pm TBC Respect 6th-7th June Great West Run 15th October 2015 Thursday-Sunday Magic Carpet Saturday 11th April café and exhibition of art club</p> <p>Upcoming events: April – 2-5pm Flute cake organising café April 19th Sunday Amnestea. To support Amnesty international: NCA will run the café for them, Flute cake will do the</p>	<p>SA RMcN DB</p>

	<p>music. They will provide the tea and cake. Sally and Steve Palmer will help run the café. We will advertise it on our website/newsletter. Co promote – all money collected goes to Amnesty. NCA providing facility for this event. Jackie organising.</p> <p>10th May café – 2-5pm Kevin Cotter involved / seed and plant event DWT? Hanging baskets Portland Street group. Su organising. Joanne White/Lou Fearn?</p> <p>June 14th – 2-5 pm Healthy living - cycle group and Joe Salmon, yoga, Qigong sitting down. Have a go.... R McN organising</p> <p>July 19th – 2-5pm theme to be decided</p> <p>August 16th – 2-5pm theme to be decided</p> <p>September 13th Food festival. Sunday 13th September, 12-4pm SA , MP and R McN</p> <p>Halloween Café, Saturday 31st October, 5pm- 8pm MP and DB</p> <p>Craft Fair. Sunday 29th November, 11 – 4pm. Elena Milego and Su support</p> <p>Winter Warmer, Sunday 13th December, 6pm-8pm. Rory McN</p>	<p>JH SA RMcN</p> <p>SA, MP, RMcN EM, SA R McN</p>
8	<p>AGM agenda – Sat 21st Feb</p> <p>Screen and projector R Mc N</p> <p>Headline Speaker (Exeter Low Emissions Strategy/ /Social Media Workshop?) Short presentation on social media. Committee will email RMcN with ideas for speakers</p> <p>Joanne White will talk about Portland Street going green.</p> <p>Annual Report – send MP a copy of what I wrote for the last Trustees Annual report for Charity Commission.</p> <p>Committee Elections – advertise for a secretary.</p> <p>Can an associate member be Chair of the NCA? SA ask CVS.</p> <p>Publicity – Feb newsletter and E and E /posters - MP</p> <p>Membership list and subscription – decided still not to have a subscription at the moment</p>	<p>RMcN</p> <p>All committ ee</p> <p>SA MP RMcN</p> <p>SA</p> <p>MP</p>
9	<p>AOB Earlier Su met with Joanne White and Richard Branston to discuss the aims of the group. Committee unanimously agreed that NCA would be the association that Joanne White can apply through for the ward grant to help make Portland street greener. Su will inform Joanne. The Facebook page is Plants for Portland Street https://www.facebook.com/groups/plantsforportlandst/</p> <p>Sally Palmer would like to do table top sales on a Saturday. Committee agreed she can do it but NCA would not be able to take responsibility. JH will inform Sally.</p>	<p>SA</p> <p>JH</p>
10	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Our next 'Open Forum' will also be the AGM, taking place on Saturday 21st February at 10.30am- 12.30am.</p>	