

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM
(A Self Help Group Run by Members for Members)

**Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held 10 May 2012 at Corbridge
Parish Hall.**

- 1 Present**
Mike Wood (Chair), Adrian Hinchcliffe, Norman Hooks, Pat Johnston, Keith Robson.
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
Michael Elphick, Margaret Weatherley, Liz Stewart, Louise Currie, Mel Hall.
- 3 Minutes of the Meeting Held 7 February 2012.**
These were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- 4 Matters Arising from the Minutes**
 - (a) CRB checks – no change**
 - (b) Frequency of Electrical Inspection – Mike Wood had investigated this. There is no indication of a move away from a five year frequency. Insurance policies may determine the frequency.**
- 5 The Northumberland Energy Club – Progress Report**
Flyer sent by post to a number of Halls for circulation in their area. Payment made to NNVHC. No quarterly report from LSI yet but the Secretary was aware of a small number of Halls had asked for quotations.
- 6 PAT Testing Scheme – Progress report**
Now coming to the end of the first full cycle. We will fully review the scheme at the next meeting in June. Treasurer reported Income of £823.50 and outgoings of £238.44. 1,522 tests had been carried out with 46 failures (3%).
Mike Wood had been in touch with the equipment suppliers. They do not do an exchange system but could offer a two hour turn around for recalibration if we wish to take the equipment to York.
- 7 Web Site Operations**
Michael Elphick had sent a short report to the Secretary. Usage of the web site was continuing at about the same level. In terms of capacity we are only using 53 out of the 2,048 Mbytes of storage allowed. Michael has identified a need to update some information on the web site and is looking for help from others.

Michael had outlined a suggestion for developing a ‘swap shop’ within the web site. Members would be able to advertise items for exchange or sale or as wanted. The Committee thought this was a good idea and should go ahead.
- 8 Treasurers Report and Membership Update**
Liz had sent a report to the Secretary. She reported a bank balance of £2,291.11. Income for the year was £1,504.75 made up of £570 subscriptions, £823.50 PAT testing, and £111.25 LSI. On the expenditure side total expenditure was £300.47 made up of Website £33.53, PAT testing £238.44, Audit £16.00. and NNVHC £12.50.
Membership stood at 59 but of that number one was still to renew. Pat Johnston offered to speak to that Hall. The 59 includes three new members – Barden Mill-Henshaw VH, Merton Hall Recreation Centre and Heddon on the Wall WI.
- 9 Health and Safety Policy**
The Secretary regretted that he had not been able to produce a draft for this meeting.

- 10 Connect4Change**
The Secretary reported that the old VCS organisation had terminated on 31.03.12. C4C had issued a consultation document on the proposed VCS Assembly and he had responded on behalf of the Consortium.
There was to be a first event on 29 May at Stamfordham Village Hall. We were being invited to take a stall. Agreed not to do this but to send some information on the Consortium for display.
- 11 Discretionary Business Rates Relief**
It was noted that the current scheme operated by the County Council will come to an end on 31.03.13. Halls have been sent a letter to this effect. It is understood that the County is likely to continue with the scheme but Halls will have to complete an application form and apply for the relief as last time.
- 12 Cost of Electrical Installation Inspection**
It was noted that the prices for this work was increasing all the time. It may be possible for the Consortium to negotiate benefits for members. To be taken forward.

Signed as a Correct record.....date.....