

# WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM

## SPRING GENERAL MEETING 2013.

HELD THURSDAY 7 MAY 2013 AT STOCKSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

### NOTE OF MEETING

**1 Members Present**

There were ten members present.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Matfen Village Hall, High Forest Community Association, Riding Mill VH, Barrassford VH, Wall VH, Wylam Institute, Margaret Weatherley, Mike Wood.

**3 Opening and Chairing of the Meeting**

Norman Hooks took the Chair in the absence of Mike Wood.

**4 Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

David Francis, Director, Community Action Northumberland, gave a talk on the new charity status known as Charitable Incorporated Organisation which offers Trustees the limited liability. A summary of David's talk is attached.

**5 Remote Controlled Heating Systems in Village Halls.**

The Secretary gave an account of how the heating system had been enhanced at the Newton and Bywell Community Hall to give improved control, better comfort conditions, improved efficiency and better management. See the paper attached.

**6 Financial Reserves – What level Should Be Held in Reserve.**

Some members had questioned what level of financial reserves should be held. The Secretary outlined some thought on this – See the Paper attached.

**7 Update By the Secretary**

**(a) Northumberland Energy Club**

Over 35 contracts had now been taken out through the Club. The Consortium was now benefitting from an income stream from LSI which was not costing members in any way. There is still scope for many members to take obtain quotations from LSI on a 'No obligation basis'. Bringing the contracts together on 1 February 2013 had resulted in a better deal for those involved on the basis of 'bulk purchasing'.

**(b) Web Site**

Visits to the web site are now running at over 1,000 per month. Member were reminded of the need to keep up to date the details held on the web site for their Hall.

**(c) PAT Testing**

Now coming to the end of the second full cycle. We will fully review the scheme at the next meeting in July. More members had taken part in the scheme this year. There had been some delays due to the weather.

**(d) Succession Planning**

Most of the Management Committee have been in post since the inception of the Consortium in 2008. Some have indicated their desire to retire at the next AGM. The Secretary has appealed for new people to join the Management Committee but so far no one has come forward. It is essential to find some new people to continue the good work of the Consortium. Equally the Consortium is looking for further volunteers to become Portable Appliance Testers. Training will be given.