

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

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 19TH OCTOBER
2011 AT HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.**

- 1 Present**
Kate Rutherford, Langley VH; Pat Johnston, Newbrough TH; Adrian Hinchcliffe, Newton and Bywell CH; Valarie Bell, Haydon Bridge CA; John Carse, Falstone VH; Melvyn Whatmough, Gilsland VH; Vicky Robson, Ponteland PH; Keith Robson, Slaley CH; Michael Elphick, Slaley CH; Francesca Leslie, Whitley Chapel PH, Louise Currie, Community Action, Northumberland; Liz Stewart, Greenhead VH; Keith Walker, Allenheads Trust; Robert Philipson, High Forest CA; Anne Gregory Smith, Matfen VH; Mike Wood, Greenhead VH.
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
Norman Hooks, Stocksfield CC; Denis Peel, Wylam Institute; Bill Grigg, Acomb VH; Geof Robinson, Colwell VH; Margaret Weatherley, Slaley CH; Jim Brown, Kirkwhelpington VH.
- 3 Minutes of the AGM held 20.10.10**
The minutes were approved as a correct record.
- 4 Matters Arising from the Minutes**
Michael Elphick was congratulated on the development of the Consortium Web Site.
- 5 Annual Report for the Year to 30.09.11**
The report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The Secretary summarised the contents of the report. He concluded by saying that the Consortium had made significant progress over the last year and it was now in a position to offer a full range of services to all members.
The report noted the substantial support received from Community Action Northumberland, joint working with the North Northumberland Village Halls Consortium and the contribution made by Malcolm Caisley before his untimely death.

The meeting accepted the report.
- 6 Accounts for the Year to 30.09.11**
The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year to 30.09.11. They showed an opening balance of £696.97, receipts of £1,211.30, payments of £871.44, a surplus for the year of £339.86 resulting in a closing balance of £1,036.83.

The meeting accepted the accounts.
- 7 Election of Chairman**
Mike Wood was nominated, accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected.
- 8 Election of Secretary**
Adrian Hinchcliffe was nominated, accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected.
- 9 Election of Treasurer**
Liz Stewart was nominated, accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected.
- 10 Election of up to 12 Committee Members**
The following members were nominated. Keith Robson, Michael Elphick, Margaret Weatherly Norman Hooks and Pat Johnston. Those present accepted the nomination and the Secretary confirmed he was aware that those not present were willing to stand. All five nominations were elected.
The Secretary appealed to the meeting to find additional people from their organisations that would stand on the Management Committee. There are seven vacancies. The obligation is to attend about six meetings each year which are all held during daytime on weekdays.

Louise Currie of Community Action Northumberland congratulated the Consortium on the progress that has been achieved. She said that both Consortia within Northumberland had achieved national recognition and the West Consortium web site was an exemplar project.

11 Music Licensing Update – Louise Currie , Community Action – Northumberland.

Louise said that a Performing Rights Society (PRS) licence is most likely to be required in all Halls. It is required for premises that use live or recorded musical performances. It costs 1 percent of ‘defined income’.

Changes in legislation mean that Village/Community Halls are no longer exempt from needing a Phonographic Performance licence (PPL). The PPL licence is required for any use of recorded music in a public performance. It is required for premises used for public performances of recorded music/sound recording (CDs or tapes). It is not required for weddings, birthday parties etc which are classed as ‘private’. The tariff rate is a fixed rate of £42 for up to £10,000 of defined income. Where the defined income is over £10,000 the rate is 1 Percent.

PRS is going to collect both licence fees and will be writing to all existing licence holders shortly.

Louise left a hand out which is to be circulated to all Members.

12 Concessions for Surface Water Drainage Charges.

Louise Currie also spoke about possible changes in the application of concessions for surface water charges. This applies to Halls that are connected to the public surface water drainage system. A few years ago Northumbrian Water introduced criteria for the determination of the Band that Village/Community Halls should be on. If these criteria were met the building was allocated to Band 1 which resulted in a charge of £109.30. Where the criteria were not met the building was allocated to a higher band.

Following a national campaign, the Government has empowered Water Companies to make concessions and Northumbrian Water has introduced an interim scheme for 2011/12 which will allow all village halls/community halls to pay on the minimum Band of £109.30. Halls paying at a higher band should immediately apply for the subsidy. Even Halls that are already on band 1 should also apply because there is the possibility that Northumbria Water may introduce a lower charge if they are able to cross subsidise with other customers.

Louise left a hand out which is to be circulated to all Members.

13 Practical Tips on the Installation of Photovoltaic panels – John Carse, Falstone Village Hall.

John Carse gave a very informative talk on his project to install photovoltaic cells on his own house. John had been present a year ago when Simon Madden had given a presentation on photovoltaic cells. John is now considering installing the cells on the roof of Falstone Village Hall. A copy of John’s talk is attached.

14 Organising and Running a Bar in a Village Hall. Pat Johnston, Newbrough Town Hall.

Newbrough Town Hall Committee decided to install a permanent BAR and make it available for local functions such as weddings and dances. A copy of Pat’s talk is attached.

15 Northumberland Energy Club – Adrian Hinchcliffe

Adrian Hinchcliffe gave an update on progress with the Northumberland Energy Club. LSI have received 17 enquiries (10 from members and 7 from non members). 8 have resulted in contracts, 4 are still in progress, 5 did not materialise.

Overall Adrian expressed disappointment with the number of enquiries from members especially when we have 56 members. One member asked if there are any handouts that could be given to non members. This would be considered.

16 PAT Testing – Adrian Hinchcliffe

Adrian Hinchcliffe gave an update on the Appliance Service testing scheme that was about to be launched.

Firstly, Adrian said we are indebted to the eight volunteers who have agreed to give their time free of charge and have undergone training and been certified to carry out appliance testing. They are :

Alan Brewin. Pat Johnston. Denis Peel. Matthew Singleton. Liz Stewart. Michael Stott.
Melvyn Whatmough. Mike Wood.

The Scheme is ready to start and had been approved by the management Committee. Greenhead VH has already been tested. Many thanks to Mike Gowland for obtaining the grant for the testing equipment and the initial insurance. The Consortium had received two testing sets. Adrian explained the charging regime and how we had fixed on £26 for up to 50 items. There may be scope to reduce this in future. The presentation covered how the scheme was to work. The web site was to act as a focal point for information. This was almost complete. More information would be sent out to all members about the scheme and specific guides would be sent to the Members taking the service, Volunteer Testers and Denis Peel the Coordinator.

So far 36 members had agreed to take the service and 11 others were still to notify their decision.

17 Any Other Business

On behalf of Community Action – Northumberland, Louise Currie thanked the Consortium for the support that had been given to CAN. She added that following discussions with C4C, CAN had received an amount of money to continue with their present service received by the Consortium.

18 Close of the Meeting

In closing the meeting Mike Wood thanked Valerie Bell and the Committee of Haydon Bridge Community Association for allowing the meeting to take place on their premises.