

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM

SPRING GENERAL MEETING 2012.

HELD THURSDAY 10 MAY 2012 AT CORBRIDGE PARISH HALL

NOTE OF MEETING

1 Members Present

There were sixteen members present.

2 Apologies for Absence

Byrness Village Hall, Matfen Village Hall, Allenheads Trust Committee members – Margaret Weatherley, Liz Stewart, Michael Elphick

3 Opening and Chairing of the Meeting

Mike Wood opened and Chaired the meeting.

4 Insurance of Community Buildings – Louise Currie, Community Action Northumberland.

Louise gave a presentation of all aspects of risks and insurance cover for community buildings and village halls. Her talk was very informative on the aspects of risk and insurance that Trustees should be aware of when considering best practice, avoiding risks and entering into insurance cover. Many of those present raised questions and queries and the session was very interactive. The talk by Louise is to be placed on the Consortium web site.

5 Hallmark – The Scheme and How it can Save Money

Louise Currie gave a second talk covering the Hallmark scheme and giving good reasons why Halls should consider qualifying for Level 1. Some insurance companies give a discount for achieving Hallmark. Louise offered to run a training course for Halls who are interested. The course would give the participants a good idea of what is involved which is not onerous but mostly being organised and straight forward. It was agreed that the Secretary would canvass members to see if there is interest.

6 Conversion to Incorporation and Creating a Trading Arm – Norman Hooks

Norman outlined why the Stocksfield Institute and Community Association in 2011 decided to change their constitution and become Incorporated under the Companies Act. This led also led to a name change to Stocksfield Community Centre and the creation of a trading arm. Norman went through the logic of their decision to change and the pros and cons of the change. He concluded that it had been worthwhile and outlined some of the schemes that they were now getting into which are of significant benefit to the community. The talk by Norman is to be placed on the Consortium web site.

7 Update By the Secretary

(a) Northumberland Energy Club

Around a dozen members and non members have taken out contracts with LSI. Flyer sent by post to a number of Halls for circulation in their area. No quarterly report from LSI yet but the Secretary was aware of a small number of Halls had asked for quotations. The Secretary expressed surprise that more members had not requested quotations from LSI especially when they are ‘no obligation’.

(b) Web Site

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 members to review the information on their Halls.

The Secretary expressed some concern that members were not using the web site more. It was not known why this was. It was suggested that we should survey members to find out.

(c) PAT Testing

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%). The next round of testing will commence in September. Denis Peel, PAT Testing Co-ordinator expressed the view that the next test for each Hall may not be exactly 12 months after the last – but this does not matter for there is no legislation requiring an exact period of 12 months.

Meeting ended at 9.15pm