

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 9TH JUNE 2016 AT RIDING MILL VILLAGE HALL

1 Present - Members

Peter Chapman (Knott Memorial Hall, Heddon on the Wall); Barbara Braysher, Stocksfield Community Association; Neville Gary (Ovingham Reading Room); David Watson, Wall VH; Gareth Hughes (Allendale VH); Robert Philipson (High Forest Community Centre); Marion Brown (The old School, Ovingham); Louise Dawson (Great Whittington VH); Liz Treadway (Great Whittington VH); Ethel Coulthard (Horsley WI); Elizabeth Bramwell, (Horsley WI); David Cobb, (Ponteland Memorial H); Trish Hardy, (Ponteland Memorial H); Kate Rutherford (Lanley Village Hall); Laura Gilesby (Langley Village Hall); Fiona Oomes (Wylam Institute), Mike Wood, (Greenhead VH); Adrian Hinchcliffe (Unattached); Michael Elphick Slaley Memorial Hall); Keith Robson, (Slaley Memorial Hall); Pam Pryor (Riding Mill VH); Roly Taylor (Wall VH); David Easby (Wall VH).

Non Members Present

Julia Plinston, (Community Action Northumberland); Louise Curry (Community Action Northumberland); Caroline Friend, (Voices Northumberland).

2 Apologies for Absence

Bardon Mill VH; Newton & Bywell CH; Haydon Bridge CA; Barrassford VH; Colwell VH; Tarsset VH, Stuart Dearlove, Stocksfield CA; Andy Pryor, Riding Mill VH; Georgia Shorrocks, Gilsland VH; Margaret Weatherley, Slaley Mem H.

3 Mike Wood, Chair, welcomed members to the Special General Meeting.

4 Proposed Change to the Objects of the Consortium

Adrian Hinchcliffe, Secretary, explained the background to why a change was necessary to the 'Objects' of the Consortium. The Consortium was in the process of applying for formal charity status and had submitted an application. The Charity Commission had responded to the application and had stated that to succeed, the objects of the Consortium needed to be more explicit particularly with regard to members that do not hold charity status. The Charity Commission had provided wording which they thought appropriate for the objects of the Consortium. This wording is as follows:

The Charity's objects (the "objects") are the promotion of the voluntary sector in Northumberland and the surrounding areas (the area of benefit) in particular by building the capacity of charitable and voluntary organisations operating within the area of benefit and providing them with the necessary advice, support, information, training and services to enable them to pursue their charitable purpose and improve the efficiency and management of their resources.

For the purposes of this clause, "the voluntary sector" means charities and voluntary organisations defined as follows: "Charities" are organisations, which are established for exclusively charitable purposes in accordance with the law of England and Wales. "Voluntary Organisations" are independent organisations, which are established for purposes that add value to the community as a whole, or a significant section of the community, and which are not permitted by their constitution to make a profit for private distribution. Voluntary organisations do not include local government or other statutory authorities.

Members were given the opportunity to ask question about the change.

The Chair proposed the change in the Consortium's objects to those put forward by the Charity Commission. This was seconded by the Secretary.

A vote was taken and fifteen members were in favour of changing the objects to those shown above in paragraph 4. There were none against and no abstentions. The Chair declared the proposal was now approved and the new objects would replace the old in the Consortium's Constitution.

5 Safeguarding for Village Hall Committees

Caroline Friend of Voices Northumberland gave a talk on the Safeguarding regulations that have come about in recent years in relation to the activities of Trustees of Village Hall and Community Buildings

Caroline covered the following questions:

- Should All Trustees have clearance under the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS Clearance)?
- What Safeguarding Polices should Village Hall/Community Buildings Committees have in place?
- How do Village Hall/Community Buildings Committees ensure that everyone who uses their buildings are safe under safeguarding legislation?
- What are the penalties for non compliance.

6 Training

The Secretary reminded the meeting of the training courses that are coming up in the following weeks.

7 PAT Testing

The Chair informed the meeting of the need to recruit five or six volunteers as PAT testers for the scheme to continue.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

This is a true and correct record of the Special General Meeting. The minutes will be fully approved at the next General Meeting of the Consortium to be held in the Autumn of 2016.

Signed

Chair

Date