

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM
(A Self Help Group Run by Members for Members)
A Registered Charity - Number 1168006

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 10th NOVEMBER
2016 AT RIDING MILL PARISH HALL**

- 1 **Present**
Michael Elphick, Slaley CH; Adrian Hinchcliffe; Norman Hooks, Stocksfield CC; Keith Robson, Slaley CH; Mike Wood, Greenhead VH; Neville Gray, Ovingham RR; Gayle Tailford, Langley VH; Kate Rutherford; Pauline Wright, Heddon on the Wall WI; Lesley Howdon, Heddon on the Wall WI; David Easby, Wall VH; Valerie Bell, Haydon Bridge CC; Jackie Walker, Ponteland Memorial Hall; David Greensitt, Heddon Knott Hall; Denis Peel, Wylam Institute; Roly Taylor, Wall VH.
In attendance
Andy Dean, CEO Community Action Northumberland
- 2 **Apologies for Absence**
Margaret Weatherley (Slaley), Geoff Robinson, Colwell VH; Peter Samsom, Wark Town Hall; Michelle Nixon, Barrassford VH. David Watson, Wall VH, Larry Winger, Allendale VH; David Pearson, Kirkwhelpington VH; Robert Philipson, High Peak; Kevin Appleby, Otterburn Sports Centre; Pam Pryor, Riding Mill PH, Andy Pryor Riding Mill PH; Liz Treadway, Great Whittington VH; Louise Dawson, Great Whittington VH; Georgia Shorrock, Gilsland VH;
- 3 **Approval of Minutes**
 - (a) AGM held 28.10.15
The minutes were approved as a correct record.
 - (b) Special General Meeting 09.06.16
The minutes were approved as a correct record.
- 4 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
There were no matters arising.
- 5 **Annual Report for the Year to 30.09.16**
The report was circulated to members at the meeting and presented by the Secretary. Members asked a number of questions. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Denis Peel and seconded by Keith Robson.
- 6 **Accounts for the Year to 30.09.16**
In the absence of the Treasurer Andy Pryor, the Secretary presented a statement of accounts for the year to 30 September 2016. This showed income of £4,264.31, expenditure of £4,597.49 giving a deficit for the year of £333.18. There was an opening balance of £4,307.24 and a closing balance of £3,974.06. The accounts had been scrutinised by Margaret Weatherly the Independent Examiner. The Secretary answered a number of questions on the accounts. Acceptance of the Accounts were proposed by Denis Peel and seconded by Keith Robson.
- 7 **Election of Chairman**
Mike Wood was nominated and was unanimously elected. In accepting the nomination Mike said that this was to be the last year for him as Chair.
- 8 **Election of Secretary**
Adrian Hinchcliffe was nominated, accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected. Adrian did say that due to moving from the area he was prepared to carry on for a further year but was hoping that someone could be found to take on the Secretary's role at the AGM in 2017.
- 9 **Election of Treasurer**
Andy Pryor was nominated and unanimously elected.

- 10 **Election of a Membership Secretary**
David Easby was nominated and unanimously elected.
- 11 **Web Site Manager**
Michael Elphick was nominated and unanimously elected.
- 12 **PAT Testing Coordinator**
Roly Taylor was unanimously elected as PAT Coordinator.
- 13 **Election of up to 9 Committee Members.**
The following were nominated and elected unanimously:
Keith Robson and Neville Gray.
- 14 **Independent Examiner**
Margaret Weatherley had indicated her willingness to continue with this role and was elected.
- 15 **Vote of Thanks**
Denis Peel proposed a vote of thanks to the officials and committee for the work that had been achieved over the last year. This was unanimously approved.
- 16 **Presentation – Andy Dean , CEO. CA-N.**
Andy Dean’s presentation covered the services that CAN offers especially those for Village Halls and Community Buildings. He also covered the introduction of smart meters to residential properties which is about to start. This covered the purpose and benefits of Smart Meters and a number of factual statements to overcome common misconceptions.
- 17 **Other Business**
- (a) **Portable Appliance Testing – Requirements for the frequency of testing.**
Mike Wood raised this issue in response to a query from Members. He had been researching the legislation and legal requirements for the testing of portable appliances especially the frequency of testing for different type of appliances. This is a complex subject but it is the responsibility of the Trustees of each Hall to determine what appliances should be tested annually or at a longer frequency. The factors that determine this decision will be the appropriate legislation, insurance requirements and licencing requirements. Mike had produced some notes from his research and it was decided that these would be posted on to the web site (www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk).
- (b) **Volunteers for Village Hall Committees**
Adrian Hinchcliffe said he was aware that many Halls were having difficulty in recruiting volunteers to act as Trustees of village halls and community buildings. In most Halls the Committees struggled to find volunteers which meant that the responsibility for running the Halls was falling upon a small number of individuals. He thought that this was leading to a situation in which the many Halls may become unsustainable or they are forced to start paying for committee positions that have traditionally been carried out by volunteers. He suggested that there should be a campaign to publicise the important role that village halls take in rural communities and for the two Consortia s to working with CAN, to promote a campaign with view to changing people’s perceptions of village halls and the benefits that they bring to the community.
- 18 **Close of the Meeting**
The Chair thanked Andy Dean for his excellent presentation.
He also expressed enormous thanks to the Committee of Riding Mill Parish Hall for the use of the Hall and for the hospitality that had been provided.
The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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