

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

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 28th OCTOBER
2015 AT RIDING MILL MILLENNIUM HALL**

1 Present

Michael Elphick, Slaley CH; Adrian Hinchcliffe; Stuart Dearlove, Stocksfield CC; Keith Robson, Slaley CH; Mike Wood, Greenhead VH; Neville Gray, Ovingham RR; Pamela Pryor, Riding Mill Village Halls; Andy Pryor, Riding Mill Village Halls; Gayle Tailford, Langley VH; Louise Dawson, Great Whittington VH; Liz Treadway, Great Whittington VH; Georgia Shorrock, Gilsland VH; George Shaw, Newbrough Town Hall; Dennis Bowman, Newbrough Town Hall; Elizabeth Bramwell, Horsley VH; Ethel Coulthard, Horsley VH; Pauline Wright, Heddon on the Wall WI; Aileen Rand, Heddon on the Wall WI; David Easby, Wall;

In attendance

Louise Currie, CA-N, Julia Plinston CA-N.

2 Apologies for Absence

Matt Singleton; Margaret Weatherley (Slaley), Maggie Phillips, (Prudhoe Church Hall); Mike Barlow (Dalton); Jean Finch, Merton Hall; Geoff Robinson, Colwell VH; Norman Hooks Stocksfield CA; Vicky Herod, Wark Town Hall; Anne Moyle, Newton & Bywell CH; Valerie Bell, Haydon Bridge CA; Charles Hope, Prudhoe Partnership; Denis Peel, Wylam Institute; Jacqui Hogg, Hexham CC; Roly Taylor, Wall VH; Michelle Nixon, Barrassford VH.

3 Minutes of the AGM held 21.10.14

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Hallmaster Village Hall On-Line Booking System

It was noted that the Newton and Bywell Community Hall has installed the booking system and it is now in use on the Newton and Bywell web site.

5 Annual Report for the Year to 30.09.15

The report had been circulated to members by email. The Secretary went through the main points of the report with the use of slides. The report noted:

- the substantial support received from Community Action - Northumberland which may be in jeopardy due to potential funding cuts.**
- the financial contribution received in the form of commission from the Northumberland Energy Club that could be considerably increased if more members took out contracts through the Club.**
- there was a need for a volunteer to back up Michael Elphick in his work of developing and maintaining the web site.**
- the fantastic contribution made by the PAT Testing volunteers.**
- the NCDN project 'Let's Get Together' which may involve the Consortium nominating a member for the Steering Committee.**
- the Consortium will register as a charity with the Charity Commission due to its turnover in 2014/15 being above £5,000.**

On training, there was a discussion about the programme that had been put on in 2014 and early 2015. Members felt that this was a very good service and supported the Consortium in providing more. Members felt that the contribution by each participant could have been larger to reduce the cost to the Consortium.

It was recognised that training of this sort is vital for trustees and only a small proportion undertake training on the key responsibilities of trustees. It was considered that new ways of presenting training opportunities should be investigated and the use of electronic means, such as webinars and modules available on line These may encourage more trustees to undertake training. It was agreed that these options would be investigated with Community Action Northumberland and possibly involve the North Northumberland Village Halls Consortium.

The final section of the report asked members to consider what facilities they would like to see provided by the Consortium in addition to those already existing. The following were suggested:

- Training facilities as outlined in the paragraph above particularly for new trustees.**
- Arrangements for the valuation of members Hall for insurance purposes.**
- Training on the development of web sites for village halls.**
- Enhanced networking facilities so that members can enter into networking conversations.**

The report was accepted.

6 Accounts for the Year to 30.09.14

The Treasurer presented a statement of accounts for the year to 30 September 2015. This showed income of £17,110.53, expenditure of £17,089.07 giving a surplus for the year of 21.46. There was an opening balance of £4,285.78 and a closing balance of £4,307.24. The accounts had been scrutinised by Margaret Weatherly the Independent Examiner. The Treasurer answered a number of questions on the accounts.

The meeting received the accounts.

7 Election of Chairman

Mike Wood was nominated and was unanimously elected.

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 2016.

9 Election of Treasurer

Andy Pryor was nominated and unanimously elected.

10 Election of a Membership Secretary

Georgia Shorrock was nominated and unanimously elected.

11 Web Site Manager

Michael Elphick was nominated and unanimously elected. A request was made to appoint an understudy for Michael but regrettably no-one came forward.

12 Manager of the Northumberland Energy Club

In his absence Roly Taylor was nominated for it was understood that he was willing to take this on. Roly was unanimously elected.

13 PAT Testing Coordinator

It was understood that Matt Singleton was willing to continue in this role. Matt would keep the Committee informed of progress with the PAT Testing Programme but would not sit as a full Committee member.

- 14 **Election of up to 9 Committee Members.**
The following were nominated and elected unanimously:
Keith Robson, Margaret Weatherly, David Easby, Pam Pryor, Stuart Dearlove and Neville Gray.
- 15 **Presentation – WARM HUBS – OPPORTUNITIES FOR VILLAG HALLS – LOUISE CURRIE, CA-N.**
Community Action Northumberland has been running a pilot in North Northumberland to create village halls that are 'warm hubs' for local vulnerable residents. The pilot that has been funded by Northern Gas Networks has been successful and they have given funding for the programme to be extended across Northumberland.
The slides for the presentation are to be available on the web site
www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk
- 16 **Presentation – HALTWHISTLE RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROJECT – JULIA PLINSTON – CA-N.**
Community Action Northumberland had been awarded a European Social Fund grant to run this course at Haltwhistle. The Consortium had assisted by acting as a facilitator to obtain the funding. Julia described the benefits of the course that had arisen for many participants. All the targets had been met.
The slides for the presentation are to be available on the web site
www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk
- 17 **PARISH/COMMUNITY PLANNING THROUGH TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – JULIA PLINSTON, CA-N.**
The presentation demonstrated the different types of planning community planning from Parish Planning through to Neighbourhood Planning. All are intended to engage with people to identify their needs and priorities. Neighbourhood Planning is more to do with the planning process.
The slides for the presentation are to be available on the web site
www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk
- 18 **Other Business**
 (a) Louise Currie mentioned the launch of the Tynedale Community Bank to take place on Friday 6th November 2015 from 10.00am to 12noon at Hexham Abbey. A leaflet was handed out.
 (b) PAT Testing. Elizabeth Bramwell of Horsley VH questioned why the PAT testing for their Hall was being brought forward two months or more. The Secretary outlined the possible reason but said he would look in detail at this and give an answer to Mrs Bramwell.
- 19 **Close of the Meeting**
The Chair thanked both speakers for their excellent presentations.
He also expressed enormous thanks to Pam and Andy Pryor for the use of the Riding Mill Millennium Hall and for the hospitality that had been provided.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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