



MINUTES

Committee meeting held on 15th January 2020 held at Nenthead Arts & Visitor Centre at 6.00pm

Attendees:

Ian Grey (IG) - Chair
Gary Wright (GW) - Vice Chair
Guy Harmer (GH)
Andy Holt (AH)
Lesley Mearns (LM)
Elaine Edgar (EE)

Apologies - Gina Perryman, Janis Goodfellow.

1. Minutes of last meeting .

It was noted that Guy Harmer had hosted, but not attended, the previous meeting. The Minutes of the meeting were proposed by GW, seconded by AH and accepted unanimously.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes not on the agenda

None.

3. United Utilities Grants

IG advised that the sale of the Electric Bus had been completed and that the full grant of £3500.00 had been credited back to the UU fund. IG confirmed that the sale had gone through just in time as the vehicle insurance renewal was due and that there was no longer a suitable place for the vehicle to be stored.

IG advised that the Golf Club application for the development of the Observatory had been approved and were currently 3 applications for UU funding under consideration by the Sub-Committee and that these would be reviewed by the full committee at the next meeting.

IG stated that Janis Goodfellow would have reconciled the fund prior to the next meeting and that the available balance would be confirmed then. He believed that the fund may be fully allocated as a result.

4. Sub Committees and Membership

Marketing

IG read out a report provided by Gina Perryman. In summary;

a). A page had been added to the AMBA website (www.visitalston.com) as requested at the last meeting. It was envisaged that this would carry AMBA information including details of committee members, minutes of meetings, Constitution etc.

b). It was hoped to have a meeting of the Marketing sub-committee before the end of the month. It was planned that this meeting would produce a list of marketing priorities to present and propose at the AGM.

GP also confirmed that she was reviewing the Constitution including the changes that had been agreed at the EGM in order that we have a version along with any proposed changes circulate prior to the forthcoming AGM.

United Utilities Grant committee

IG reported that there was one vacancy on this committee.

LM offered to stand and was proposed by GW, seconded by AH and appointed unanimously.

IG to forward copies of the 3 current applications to LM for her consideration and response.

5. Finance & Membership

Janis Goodfellow had previously circulated a report on the membership and financial position. It was felt that there were several potential members who would be approached in the near future.

There were no questions in respect of either document.

IG advised that he was in the process of becoming a co-signatory to the AMBA bank account in place of David Hymers.

6. Front Street Steering Group

It was noted that the test patches were scheduled to be laid in the near future and that the first length of cobbles / setts would be laid over the summer. IG reminded those present that there was a 'Drop In' event at the Town on Saturday 25th January and urged committee members to be positive about the works. AH said that he thought that there were a lot of PR opportunities around this project but that Cumbria CC were not enthusiastic about implementing them.

7. AONB update.

IG reported that he had attended a meeting on 9th December 2019 and that an interesting presentation on the value of the Disabled market. IG to circulate. it had been positive. Of particular interest was a presentation on the value of the market of the less able visitor. He hoped to share this at the AGM.

Also announced was the fact that there will be significant expenditure will be made in the Teesdale area from which we may see a benefit.

8. Alston Moor Federation - work experience

IG reported that he has received only one response from a member regarding this proposed activity. He advised that Stuart Dixon had resigned and that as a result this would be put on hold pending until a new Head Teacher had been appointed.

9. Christmas Trees

IG advised that:

- the two missing trees had been located.
- Brian Cooper was to review the stock and advise on what would need to be purchased to make all trees serviceable.
- That the trees could be safely stored in High Mill for the foreseeable future, and,
- That Janis Goodfellow's report showed the income generated and outstanding to date.

10. Heritage Open Days (HoDs)

IG briefed the committee on last years activity, the results, knowledge and lessons learned. He cautioned against the situation where we had 'a committee of ten and a workforce of one' and emphasised that volunteers for the committee had to be prepared to deliver on their commitments and that the community had to 'buy in' to the event. GH said that he would elicit support for the project and that he would be prepared to chair a sub committee if the level of support was there.

11. AGM date and content

It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 11th March 2020 at STR.

IG suggested that several committee members make a formal presentation of past activity and proposed objectives for the future. This was agreed.

It was also agreed that potential members be invited to attend to find out more about AMBA (but not allowed to speak or to vote) that there would be a 'social session at the end of the formal business.

12. Bonds Foundry ('Top Factory')

IG reported that he had been approached by Lindsay Williams on behalf of the Alston Moor Labour Group in respect of AMBA assisting the workers who had been made redundant. IG said that he had asked Lindsay to provide full details of what this would involve in time for this committee meeting however no further information had been provided.

13. AoB

AH asked that we support the May Fayre for the benefit of Nenthead Playpark. IG said that all members would be circulated if details were provided.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

Date of next meeting – 13th February 2020 - at The Nook, Epiacum - 6.00pm.