

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND VILLAGE HALLS CONSORTIUM

**Minutes of Meeting held at Bowsden Village hall
Wednesday 4 March 2020 7.00pm for 7.30pm**

Present: Jack Hasson – Chairman Hepple, May Wilson - Breamish Hall Powburn, George Courtice – Middleton, John Haughie - Howick, Mike Keating & Maureen Charlton – Crookham, Richard Baker - Etal, Graeme Reavley , Nick Jones, Tom Brewis, Pamela Brewis, Jacqueline Denham - Bowsden, Janet Young – Norham, Belinda Booth & Peter Burnham – Warkworth, Eileen Clark & Mo Kay – Hornccliffe, Susan Hales & Norman Gibb – Tillmouth, Duncan Moffat –Lowick, Jim Turner, Nicole Reed & Bill Nesbit – Ancroft, Len Glen-Davidson – Ingram.

Apologies were received from: John & Ros Grey – Netherton, Pauline Martin – Ulgham WI hall, Angela Peereboom & Annette Manning - Beadnell WI hall, Ellie Phillips - Longhoughton Community & Sports Centre, Jean Humphrys – Lesbury Village hall.

Attending: Julia Plinston – Community Action Northumberland.

	Action
<p>1. Welcome & apologies</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all present and read out the apologies we have received. He thanked the Management Committee at Bowsden village hall for hosting the meeting and invited Jacq Denham, the Chairperson, to tell us about the hall.</p>	
<p>2 Introduction to Bowsden Village hall from Jacq Denham</p> <p>Jacq explained that about 11 years ago it was decided to replace the leaking wooden hut with the building we were now in. With the help of a Lottery Grant, the larch clad, underfloor oil-heated hall was constructed and opened 10 years ago. Jacq arrived in the village in 2014 and in recent years over 22 different local organisations use the hall every year, involving 200 events. These range from needle work to film nights and carpet bowls to quiz nights. Only 140 people live in the the village of Bowsden (plus 40 dogs), but only about 30% of them attend hall events.</p> <p>The hall is a regular beneficiary of the nearby Barmoor Windfarm Community Fund and the next improvement planned is to upgrade the hall’s website. There are 9 on the Management Committee and they, together with 5-6 regular volunteers, make it all possible. Jack Hasson thanked Jacq for her introduction.</p>	
<p>3 Minutes of meeting at Jubilee hall, Newton-on-the-Moor October 21st 2019</p> <p>These were accepted as a true record. No matters were arising which were not included as items on the agenda.</p>	
<p>4 Julia Plinston from CAN on the new Village halls Heritage project</p> <p>Julia introduced CAN and explained that it had supported rural communities since it was established nearly 70 years ago. Village halls were always very much part of its remit.</p>	

<p>There was clear indication that a number of village halls would be interested in preserving evidence of their heritage. Last year a funding application was made to the Heritage Lottery with full support from both village hall Consortia. Essentially it was a partnership bid with Northumberland Archives, based at Woodhorn, just outside Ashington. A Steering Group has recently been established and NNVHC have two seats on it – May Wilson and Ellie Phillips. The aim is to involve 30 halls during the two year duration of the project – 15 in year 1 and 15 in year 2. The purpose would be to help people learn more about their local heritage, develop new skills, and encourage more people to get involved. This could be done by conserving documents (minute books, accounts etc) and photos more effectively, obtaining oral histories, mounting an exhibition, developing a website and publishing a book. Support for participating halls would be: an initial visit from Julia Plinston or Louise Currie, a small grant scheme (£300 approx) to be spent on local priorities, a toolkit, workshops on historical research, oral history recording and conserving. A Question and Answer session followed including a query over Avril Meakin and colleagues’ intended publication – Avril had agreed to work closely with the Project and share material. It was also pointed out how important it was to make sure all photographs were identified and described with accompanying text.</p> <p>Julia’s Powerpoint presentation would be made available to members. The Chairman thanked Julia for her talk and wished the Heritage Project every success.</p>	
<p>5 Finance & Membership</p> <p>May Wilson reported that the current balance held at the bank was £7896.59 and that a record 73 members were now paid up members. The four new members were: New Hartley (near Seaton Delaval), Crossman Hall Holy island, BURC (formerly St Pauls’s Spittal) and Glendale Hall/Warm Hub at Wooler. MW explained that George Courtice had recently been on an all-day PAT refresher course as it was considered important that he kept up-to-date with current requirements so that he could transfer his knowledge to other volunteer PAT testers.</p>	
<p>6 Reports backs</p> <p>a) Suppliers Survey Members were encouraged to complete and return the the forms with contact information about suppliers they had contracted and been happy with. The form, with details of where to send it, can be found on our website at https://nnvhc.org.uk/news/ You may need to scroll down to it.</p> <p>b) Capital support GC explained that both 2019 and 2020 were good years for some halls in the county because two new sources of grant aid emerged. The National Lottery Community Grants from Reaching Communities via CAN have awarded £693k over those years to 23 halls in the county and there is a third year to come. And a further £75k came via ACRE, managing DEFRA’s new Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund. That is in addition to all the small Trusts and Foundations, wind farms and others offering support which have attracted conservatively a further £200k. If we assume that</p>	<p>All</p>

<p>NNVHC members share about half the total, that would have made a massive increase in their total collective income – approximately a 40% increase. Our aim is to make sure more of our members benefit from this outside money.</p> <p>c) Hire charge survey and election charges We published the results on our website at the end of 2018 under the INFORMATION banner. See https://nnvhc.org.uk/information/survey-of-hire-charges/ We noticed a substantial variation with the amount earned from hosting national and local elections. The lowest was £96 and the highest £263. Members who thought they should be receiving more were urged to contact the County Council.</p>	
<p>7 Any Other Business</p> <p>Future Meetings for your diary: Thursday 25 June 2020 (venue to be decided) Tuesday 20 October 2020 (venue to be decided) Members will be notified of the venues as soon as they have been arranged.</p> <p>Any Other Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Janet Young from Norham asked for contact information about the Building Surveyor mentioned at a previous meeting. 2) Funding advice was sought from the floor and it was suggested they contact Marc Johnson at NCVA tel: 01670 858688 marc.johnson@northumberlandcva.org.uk 3) Those halls which are currently Rest Centres should expect to receive a letter, with a stamped addressed envelope, by end of month from Nigel Fisher in charge of Rest Centres at NCC to update contact details. Any halls interested in becoming a Rest Centre (used in situations of emergency) should contact Nigel. Nigel.Fisher@northumberland.gov.uk 4) GC asked members present whether they were happy with the service supplied by their current bank. Most indicated that they were although a minority were not. 5) Heather Leatherland who had been on NNVHC’s Management Committee for a number of years had recently resigned from the position due to ill health. The Chair thanked her for her service. <p>Jack Hasson again thanked all at Bowsden Village hall for hosting the meeting and for the delicious coffee and closed the meeting.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>MW</p>