

EAST TYNEDALE COMMUNITY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held on 21st July 2021 at 7.00pm in Newton Community Hall

Present:

Tom Martin (Chair), Graham Curry (Corbridge), Neville Grey (Ovingham), Luke Hilliard (Wylam), Mike Senior (Horsley), Maggi Hunt (Stocksfield), Colin Chance (Stocksfield). In attendance, Monica Anderton, Secretary.

1. Apologies:

Ian Gillespie (Bywell)

2. Declarations of Interest:

none

3. Minutes from 15th January 2020:

These were approved as a true record.

4. Matters arising:

~ The Forum Code of conduct review continues to be deferred for now;

5. Chairman's report:

The Chairman thanked all the local councils for their work done in the community in the last 18 months; he suggested that councils might wish to summarise in a few words, what have been the main outcomes of such working together; and possibly look towards ways in which such community spirit can be maintained – possibly in relation to item 6 following. The Chairman also raised a possible future conflict of interest. He is in discussions with Wylam PC and NCC in a matter concerning access to his home and business. Consensus of the meeting is to note this and to ask Cllr Hilliard to speak to Wylam PC for a formal note of their position.

He also suggested deferring the AGM until the October meeting; and the review of the Secretary's terms and conditions. This was agreed. Cllr Hilliard also agreed to ask Wylam PC for their formal view of the Chairman's position in the above matter.

6. Climate Change:

Stocksfield Council have set up a Climate Change Advisory Group under the auspices of Cllr Chance who has an interest in the topic. They are already working with NCC and their Climate plans but feel that this is an issue where smaller groups should work together where possible to enable more actions. It would be useful, if other councils can report back to the Forum, briefly, on what particular issues, they may be addressing in their parishes so that an overview can be obtained. To help with this, a summary document produced by Cllr Chance is appended to these minutes: it is a brief summary of the County Council's Climate Change Plan. The Forum would like to arrange a special meeting in September possibly with the County Council's Climate Change spokesperson to which Forum members, and interested parties, will be invited. Following such a meeting, an Action Plan for the Forum councils could be established, based on suitable data. At present there is limited funding for major schemes

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but there may be funding for smaller joint enterprises. Cllr Holly Waddell of Bywell ward is on the NCC Climate Change Panel.

7. Reports from Other bodies:

These have been limited with Covid and lockdown. The Secretary has been forwarding any items of interest from the NALC County Committee and the Parish Liaison Working Group; and Stephen Rickitt of NALC has been circulating plenty of information during the pandemic as well.

8. Finance:

a) Finance Report

The Current account balance before payments is £313.88. The Secretary's payment of £120 was approved and it was noted that the quarterly contractual payments had continued during the pandemic.

Although expenditure is low, the balance will go before Christmas. It was therefore agreed to send out invoices requesting another tranche of donations from member councils. This agrees with the predicted gap of 18-24 months between requests.

b) Bank of Scotland:

Following the instruction at the last meeting in January 2020 to try and get £32 transferred to the Forum's new account, or for BoS to put it in a charity, the Secretary attempted to make this happen. She spent over 9 hours on this with no success, the matter ending up with emailed mandate forms being sent to Adrian Hinchcliffe. It was agreed to make a final letter of complaint, to be signed by all member councils, possibly with a copy to the Financial Ombudsman, detailing the impossibility of dealing with some organisations.

9. AOB:

~ The Chairman noted the sad death of Adrian Smith, who had been a strong supporter of the Forum. A card had been sent on behalf of the Forum;

~ Greg Gavin from NCC would attend the next meeting of the Forum in October to discuss added-value services, an issue that had been raised by Cllr Grey during the year;

Future Meetings – a number of topics have been suggested: Rural Crime; Art Trail – Prudhoe Partnership; Tyne Community Learning Trust; Borders Initiative.

10. Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting will be on 12th October 2021 in Newton Community Hall at 7.00pm. The date of a special Climate Change meeting will be forwarded once it has been arranged.