

Upper Eskdale Development Group

Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 3rd September 2022

Present: Board Members: Ernie Buck, Nancy Chinnery, Jakki Gunn, Diana Lilley, Susie Lilley, Julie McCleod.
Operational Development Manager: Lara Porter

Apologies: Carol Bennett, Ani Llamó, Adrian Solomon.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Jakki proposed and Julie seconded a motion to accept the minutes, and the motion carried.

Resignations: Tracy Hughes resigned from the board last month.

Business

Trustees: The UEDG needs a Treasurer. ACTION: Nancy agreed to ask Crista Cameron if she would be willing to join the board in this capacity.

Samye Ling accommodation policy: Visitors to the Hub would be welcome to stay at Samye Ling. It would be too complicated to separate the tariff for accommodation and meals, but there are a range of options and prices for different types of rooms and Campervans are allowed.

Website: The website needs updating and someone to regularly edit and make additions, and the Group was asked to look for someone qualified to do this.

Health and Safety: Genesis Occupational Health and Safety has been chosen to bring Hub policies and procedures up to date, so we can keep up with and follow their guidelines. We also need guidance and training on how to do this. Sue Stevenson said it might be possible to get funding for the core cost of this. A new volunteer, Jude Graham has offered to help with this.

Playground: The group discussed the cost of up-keeping the playground. A yearly inspection is £240 and someone local needs to be trained to do more regular inspections throughout the year. The group was in favour of dismantling the playground, since it has seen very little use and we would like to use the space differently. ACTION: Ernie, Jakki and Nancy agreed to form a sub-committee to design, plan and build both a bike shed and a community garden. They will meet within the next month. We already have funding of £1000 to put towards a community garden project and could try and get more funding to include a bike shed.

ODM Report

Crossdyke funding application: We need in-depth financial information and research to build our application for core funding. This should include community consultations, both face-to-face and an online or paper version. Jude Graham has volunteered to help distribute questionnaires and a newsletter to local residents.

Membership: The group discussed types of membership: Full Members, Associate Members, and Junior Members. The benefits of full membership i.e. parish residents can vote on UEDG matters. The group also voted on having member only events as an additional benefit. Ernie proposed, Nancy seconded and the group unanimously agreed.

'Open Doors': The Hub had over 300 visitors over the weekend. There was a reporter and photographer from the Annandale Observer who came on Saturday. Lara will subscribe to the Annandale Observer.

LEL cycle race: This was a great success. The Hub was voted best stop for the cyclists. The Hub was paid £17,000 and spent approx. £6,000 on the event. We gained several new volunteers during LEL. There will be a 'Thank you event' for the volunteer crew on 1st October.

The Library: The set up for this is well underway. Village volunteers Des and Mariette are working together on this.

Ebay: Mariette has also been doing some Ebay selling for the Hub. The Hub now has its own Ebay account. Using Facebook Marketplace was discussed as an alternative to Ebay.

Filing system: Mariette has worked on a new physical filing system, but more is needed to implement this.

University of Edinburgh market research: D&G Third Sector will put the Hub forward for MBA students as a case study for their market research strategies projects.

ODM assistant funding: If successful, this would cover an assistant for 3 years. We will hear in November.

Any Other Business

Archaeology and History: The group discussed starting an Archaeology, History and Mythology Group. ACTION: Julie agreed to be chair for this and will contact others who might be interested. The group could connect with D&G archaeologist Andrew Nicholson and possibly Edinburgh University. Ideas include gathering recent histories as well as ancient histories and holding events and talks at the Hub. We could look into getting funding for this. Julie suggested that local Barry Young draws maps and might help produce one for the valley. The group will hold an initial meeting in October 2022.

EV charger: This is now in place and will offer an hourly rate for use.

Shop: There was no update on the shop, as Carol was not able to come to this meeting.

Eskdalemuir Expressive Arts: Nancy suggested that an online calendar, accessible to the Hub, the village hall and EEA be created, so that each local group can plan a calendar of events and all groups could use this to inform their separate event planning. This could be on Outlook. Angie has requested that there be some permanent, lockage storage at then Hub for EEA materials. ACTION: Lara and Nancy will look into this and whether there might be funding for this.

Energy: We need a new business contract by November. We should hear from Energy Scotland in October about an inspection and audit of our energy use and needs.

Business Plan: Diana has been working on this and handed out the first draft so far. The group will respond when they have had the time to read and consider it. Diana and Lara will meet soon with Emma Lidell from ? about the Business Plan and outcomes that would be made possible by additional funding.

Next Meeting: Monday, 3rd October 2022