**Upper Eskdale Development Group**

**Board of Trustees**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Sunday, 12th February 2023**

**Attending:**

Carol Bennett, Ernie Buck, Nancy Chinnery, John Darwell,Jakki Gunn (Chair), Lisa Warden

 - Lara Porter and Adrian Solomon

**Apologies:**Ani Lhamo, Julie Macleod, Colin Nicoll

**Minutes of the last meeting, 10th January 2023**.  Nancy moved and John seconded the motion to accept the minutes.  The motion was carried.

1. **General Administration**

Board members discussed general ‘ground rules’ for the meetings: what would help us to get the most value from our meetings? It was decided we should always start on time and finish on time. We should always respect each others opinions and should try to not talk over one another. Mobile phones to be on silent and we should avoid holding side conversations during the meeting.

1. **Training for Trustees**

Inspiring Scotland are going to look at our Articles of Association to make sure they are as up to date and relevant as they should be. This will include adding what is necessary to put us in the position to move forward on community land buy out. There will be some training for us on Zoom, currently aiming to organise for 21st March at 18.30…further information during March meeting.

1. **Treasurer**

Questions asked about what the role of the treasurer will actually be? Theresa Parker (our accountant) performs our accounts for us while Adrian manages the book keeping. Lara asked to arrange for Theresa Parker to visit us so that we can gain a greater insight. Nancy will then further discuss with Krista, and Jakki will also discuss with Ally (Cote) as they are two possible people to fulfil the role of treasurer.

1. **Business Plan**

General discussion held about how we move forward with the 5 year business plan? Lara feels that many of the items are for her to action; she was asked to take time to identify which areas she thinks the board should focus their attention on? In particular the move towards the Hub becoming Net Zero in it’s activities requires a lot of focus. A report by David Telford has been commissioned and the results are awaited.

**5) Any other business?**

* A funding application has gone in to set up a Community Fridge, the result should be available early March. Food parcels are also being donated and Sue Toon will be bringing tins from Tesco. A table has been set up within the entrance to the hub so that people can easily access the food if they need it.
* ESMP hall committee discussed the possibility of the hall being used occasionally to accommodate overnight guests (bunk house style). Some concern about the cost of the extra electricity, however not against the idea in general. Consideration to be given to a joint meeting to discuss further if we want to move forward with the idea.
* Contact has been made with the regional council archaeologist group and the Eskdale archaeologist group. A meeting for interested parties has been arranged for the 31st March at 19:30.
* The Board members present agreed they were happy to receive ad hoc emails to pass on information generated between meetings. These include invitations to events/training etc.
* EEA: Nick Jennings has earmarked a fund to improve the space upstairs. This includes turning the recesses in to storage cupboards and getting trolleys to store art materials. Angelo is going to look in to the cost of getting a sink installed and further funding is being looked at to provide new tables and chairs.
* Following a brief discussion about staffing/volunteer numbers, it was agreed that the Board has a role to oversee and not ‘micro manage’ the daily running of the Hub. This is the role of the Operational Development Manager and Lara will request support from the Board as required.
* Discussion around applying for Lottery Funding to celebrate the King’s Coronation. The Board favoured the idea to capture the living history of the valley over the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Lara will submit an application in due course.
* The community have asked for a gate on the south side of the building to make the garden more secure for young children and dogs. Ernie will think about what would work best for everyone and still allow vehicular access as required for deliveries, garden maintenance etc. The money raised by the garden club will go towards paying for it.
* Adrian presented the financial report. We have secured a further £30,000 per annum (for the next 3 years) from Crossdykes. This will g towards the running costs such as electricity, insurance etc. A brief discussion was held as to whether the Community Lunch Club should be restarted? No decision was reached. Adrian also pointed out that the salary bill was now twice as high as this time last year. This may be a reflection on the success of the cafe, but we should all be considering volunteering and/or encouraging and supporting other members of the community to take an active role in supporting the Hub’s activities.