

**Newtown Community Association Committee Meeting
Monday 18th January 2016 at 20 Clifton Hill, 7.30 pm**

Minutes

Present: Su Aves (Secretary) Derek Burnside (Treasurer) James Leigh (Hut maintenance), Rory McNeile (Chair), Michael Parrott (Vice Chair & Publicity), Jackie Holdstock (Hut Bookings Manager).

Visiting: Jacky Cox

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
1	Apologies: None	
2	Review of minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the previous two meetings (9/11/15 & 21/11/16) were approved, and signed by the chair. Also the minutes of 11/5/15 were approved and signed . No matters arising not covered elsewhere.	
3	Increasing community involvement. Jacky Cox facilitated a discussion on volunteer recruitment and management. We listed the following reasons for our personal NCA involvement: commitment to community, being directly approached, personal background and convictions, stepping in to support others under pressure, recognising it's good and enjoyable for us individually, and recognising the value of the hut as a community resource and wanting to support its availability. Jacky emphasised that volunteering should be a mutually-beneficial arrangement, so when recruiting we should emphasise the benefit for volunteers as partaking in a joyous pleasure, rather than presenting the need as a guilt-inducing pressure. Su's role is currently the most stretched: Jacky will meet with Su and draw up a role profile, aspects of which can then be presented at the AGM as a volunteering opportunity. Jacky kindly offered further consultations as requested; we expressed our thanks.	JC/SA
4	Treasurer's report. Derek had previously submitted the 2015 accounts, which are attached with these minutes. We noted that the significant increased expenditure from 2014 on supplies and maintenance were explained by the electrical issues we've had this year and the improved disability ramp, and by some larger purchases such as the new notice board and T shirts, all of which are recorded in the full accounts spreadsheet. Before the AGM Derek will clarify what reserves are legally required, and we will discuss whether some of the remaining monies could be used to fund the 'Newtown Community Festival' – details under '12: Events' below.	DB
5	The Vision Rory and James had presented to representatives from MACE, the building contractors constructing the new student residences on Western Way, and requested their consideration of funding the shortfall for a £450k build; we await their response. James presented the new 'Homelodge' build proposals and we viewed their promotional DVD, both of which looked promising. £1500psm is the current anticipated cost, but we await final figures. Generally promising progress, with further discussion pending. We discussed the possibility of further community involvement in final discussions of layout, decor, fixtures and fittings, etc. Rory and James will present progress at the AGM in February, possibly including a viewing of the DVD. We expressed our thanks to Rory and James for their work.	RM/JL
6	Rhino Project Progress is as previously reported: the Rhino will be collected by Su on Weds 21 st . Su and Jacky will shortly be meeting Galvin Short of the Parks Dept. to discuss its placement in the park. Design cafes begin this coming weekend; Su will run this weekend's, any further assistance gratefully received. An organising committee including Su and Jacky is in place, which will also decide the winning design. Thanks to Su and Jacky and the rest of the Rhino committee for leading the charge on this exciting project.	
7	Exeter Community Forum Rory continues to attend on our behalf. None of us can make the next meeting on Weds 27 th January, but Rory will attend the next steering committee. The ECF consultants will report to the Council in April 2016 on how the ECF envisages the distribution of the Community Infrastructure Levy	

	monies.	
8	<p>Hut Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="checkbox"/> A friend of James' will soon be looking at the lighting. • <input type="checkbox"/> All regular NCA events will now be paying £6ph hut hire charges as from Monday 22nd February. Qigong and Choir will fund those through slightly increased attendance charges, the Social Cafe through securing grant funding. • <input type="checkbox"/> We discussed the Christmas complaints from local residents of noise from hut users breaching the 11pm curfew. We agreed to sustain the current line: users must vacate the hut by 11pm, this will be particularly strongly emphasised to those hosting later parties. Any noise after that time should be reported by residents to the police and council noise abatement officers. • <input type="checkbox"/> We agreed not to install a letter box, in light of the very small amount of (normally insignificant) mail received. When he renews our Scrap Store membership Derek will express our thanks to them for holding what does come and make a small donation in recognition of their kindness. We will incorporate a letter box in the new hut design. 	DB
9	<p>Events:</p> <p>Past:</p> <p>The Winter Warmer had been a great success again, with good numbers attending and an impressive haul for the pop-up Foodbank. The 17th January Table-Top-Swap cafe had been poorly attended on a cold and wet day, although appreciated by those who did come. Our thanks to Sally & Steve Palmer for all their work in organising it. Sally will consider organising another one, possibly in May. Future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="checkbox"/> Rhino Cafes: Sat 23rd Jan 11am – 3pm, Sat 27th Feb 2 – 4pm and Sat 21st May 2 – 5pm. • <input type="checkbox"/> Newtown Community Festival Sunday 18th September. We think 2016 marks the NCA's 30th birthday: Michael will confirm. We discussed the feasibility of a large celebration event, possibly including aspects of the Food Festival, perhaps including a ceremonial 'breaking of ground' for the new build, possibly recognising the ward boundary changes, possibly marking the Rhino's permanent installation in the park. Some of the funding for this could come from the general fund. Jacky kindly agreed to draft a possible proposal for the event, to be presented and discussed at the AGM. • <input type="checkbox"/> Craft Fair provisionally scheduled for Sunday November 20th • <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Warmer Sunday 18th December, 6pm 	SP MP JC
10	AOB: Mark Stevens of Sandford Walk is primed for seed planting, funded from one of our grant allocations.	
11	<p>Date of next committee meeting:</p> <p>AGM Sat 20th Feb., 10am – 1pm. Main agenda item is the Vision Update. Michael will publicise. Apologies from Derek.</p> <p>Date of next Committee Meeting: Monday 21st March, 7.30pm, 9 Gordon Rd.</p>	All MP