

**Newtown Community Association Committee Meeting  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 at Belmont Park Hut  
Minutes**

**Present:** Su Aves, Derek Burnside (Treasurer), Chris Dent (Trustee), Jackie Holdstock (Hut Bookings Manager), James Leigh (Hut maintenance), Rory McNeile (Chair), Michael Parrott (Vice Chair & Publicity), Saxon Spence (acting secretary).

**Apologies:** None

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b> Finances remain healthy. Bank balance stands at <b>£14539.68</b>.  <b>Qigong</b> remains a concern: recent attendance has been encouraging, and the shortfall to date, including £300 grant income, is circa £600 (see attached interim accounts for detail). Su is seeking additional grant income to meet future shortfalls.            We discussed ways to <b>minimise cash handling</b> for Gareth, the incoming treasurer, who will have a less flexible office-hours schedule than Derek has had. We agreed that, from Jan 2016, Qigong and choir will pay their takings into the bank themselves and inform Gareth. Derek will arrange additional paying-in books and distribute them.</p>	SA  DB
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Review of minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> Sept.</b> The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the chair. No matters arising not covered elsewhere.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Belmont Park Play Equipment project</b> two meetings of this NCA sub-group have now been held, and minutes are available. Jo White of Portland Street has agreed to chair the team. A significant amount of fund-raising will be required.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>NCA Forum Meeting Agenda for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 10am</b>            Rory will craft the final agenda.            Derek will bring laptop and projector, present the treasurer's report and take minutes.            Clare Henry from Exeter City of Sanctuary will be attending, as will Natalie Vizard.            A PCSO should be in attendance, as should University Student Wardens.</p>	RM DB
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Hut Issues</b>            Rory reported that our lease from ECC runs out of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, but that the council has confirmed that the renewal of a seven year lease will be automatic. If a new build happens an interim lease will be issued for the identified plot, then on build completion a 35-year or longer lease for the land will be issued. The NCA will own the building.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>The Vision.</b> Our current designated funds stand at circa £174k. We need another £275k to fund the 'Plan B' Home Lodge bid. MACE have provisionally offered £25k.  <b>'Plan C'</b> Council leader Pete Edwards is keen to see the project go ahead, and ECC may consider a further contribution if the overall costs were reduced. Rory has approached ATT Benfield and requested an estimate for a 'Plan C', a timber frame building; they have quoted £270k as 'indicative full build cost'. Chris and Rory will meet with them to clarify exactly what that figure includes, and next steps. Rory will be meeting with Richard Branston and Pete Edwards before the end of the year. We agreed that the £1500 initial consultation/planning fee will be drawn down</p>	CD/RM

	<p>from the remaining pre-build funds available, as long as that cost includes all the detail the Building Regs will subsequently require; Rory and Chris will ascertain this when they meet. James proposed we agree that spend, Derek seconded, it was carried unanimously. We will request planning drawings so that a swift planning application can be made, which will take up to eight weeks to clear.</p> <p><b>NCA's charitable status</b> With the new build pending we need to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Association (CIO), which means we can register property and enter into contracts in the name of the charity rather than in the name of the holding trustees; such status gives officers greater protection. We are currently an 'Unincorporated Charity'. Rory will research what is involved in becoming a CIO.</p>	RM
7	<p><b>Exeter Community Forum 'Grass Roots' Grants Panel</b> has been formed, and Su is on it. It is recommended that the new park group get ready to submit a grant application, and Rory (as a member of the ECF Steering Group) is happy to assist Jo White or another in any application. 'Community Builders' will come and work with a community for a period or project. We discussed whether one could be deployed to assist the park equipment group: for future consideration by the play equipment team.</p>	RM
8	<p><b>Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Craft Fair, Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>.</b> Was a happy event, although turnout was low. Our thanks to Su, Elena and the Palmers for making it all work. Only three of the stall holders made enough money to make payment for their presence viable, with our agreement.</li> <li>• The <b>Winter Warmer</b> has been moved to <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>, 6pm, from the 18<sup>th</sup>. The choir have confirmed their availability for that new date. Steve &amp; Sally will coordinate refreshments. We agreed not to charge an entry fee, but to ask for a suggested donation to cover food and drink. If we suffer a shortfall general funds will cover it.</li> </ul>	
9	<p><b>AOB:</b></p> <p><b>Public Space Protection Order.</b> A presentation and discussion of this proposed step will be at St Sidwells School, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm.</p> <p><b>Exeter Labour Party</b> have proposed a Rose Bush in memory of Jo Cox MP, which will be planted in the Sensory Garden.</p> <p><b>Tree Trunk Carving.</b> Saxon will ask James Bond of 'Carving Community' if he would be available to carve the prominent stump, and what that would cost.</p> <p><b>Respect Festival</b> Has been confirmed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017</p> <p><b>Rhino Sama</b> will live in the hut. A permanent 'shelf' could in time be erected; in the interim James will secure her to ensure she doesn't crush any small children. Although she will always be in the room, we will not speak of her.</p>	JL
10	<p><b>Date of next meetings:</b></p> <p><b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 10am: NCA Forum, Belmont Park Hut.</b></p> <p><b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm. NCA Committee Meeting, 11 Cleveland Court.</b></p>	All