

**Newtown Community Association Open Forum Meeting  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 at 7.30 pm, 10 Clifton Hill**

**Minutes**

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

**Apologies:** George Dumble.

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>Review of minutes of the previous meetings.</b> The minutes of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> July committee meeting and 14 <sup>th</sup> July Forum were approved and signed by the chair. One phrase from the Forum minutes (about the formulation of a strategic task force) was deleted.	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> Derek reported that our current balance is healthy. Summary accounts to date are attached with these minutes.</p> <p>Rory will contact David Wortham, assess his availability and willingness to be our 'Independent Examiner', and get his details to Derek. All present approved this suggestion.</p> <p>We agreed that Herschel Rd. residents' association can hold their grant allocation in our account.</p> <p>At the next meeting we will discuss changing the status of the association to give us additional protection if significant grant monies do arrive in our accounts.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>SA</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>The Vision</b></p> <p><b>Update on fund raising</b> The Bernard Sunley fund bid has been submitted by Granted, and Alex Chalkley's recommendation has been that we apply for a 'match-funded' amount that matches funds currently available, which are in the region of £127.5k. The Devon Waste Management fund has been submitted, but no news yet. Rory has submitted a bid for £50k to the Exeter Legacy Fund.</p> <p><b>Exeter Uni Students Guild.</b> Derek and Rory met with Rachel Gillies and Joy Horton in August from the Exeter University Guild of Students. Rachel has agreed to write a letter affirming the potential value of the new hut to the Guild's city-based initiatives, which will be helpful addition to our renewed application to the Reaching Communities Lottery Fund. Rory will seek from Dawn Rivers specific contacts to pursue who could provide similar letters of support and intent, and we are all agreed to do likewise. Su will seek such a letter from the new District Coordinator of Woodcraft Folk.</p> <p><b>Dawn Rivers</b> (community involvement officer) had suggested to Rory that cheaper alternatives to the current spec may need to be a future option. We agreed to bear this in mind should the next 'Reaching Communities' bid prove unsuccessful.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>SA</p>

4	<p><b>Events:</b> The <b>WW1 Cafe</b> and bunting unveiling was a great success; the library may wish to display the bunting and possibly Michael's display. The <b>Food Fair</b> was also excellent, and both got profile in the Express &amp; Echo. Our thanks to Su and Michael for their sterling efforts.</p> <p><b>Great West Run:</b> Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October. The hut and park are this year's 'race HQ'. To register as a volunteer we should go to <a href="https://register.canbook.me/go2volunteers">https://register.canbook.me/go2volunteers</a></p> <p><b>Open Forum: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30 – 12 noon. This is no longer the AGM;</b> we agreed to revert to AGMs early in each calendar year to enable us to approve audited accounts for the Charity Commission submission. (Our current October timing was due to Ian Harrison's departure in 2013.) Michael will notify the community through the Newtown News and the email distribution list, and will also ask Peter and Elena to update the website and Facebook pages. Possible input on the day could be a presentation by the West Bank '<i>Neighbourhood Friends</i>' project, (Su to contact) and Rory will ask his University Social Media contact. George Dumble will be formally thanked at that meeting. Debbie McNeile has kindly agreed to lead the cafe.</p> <p><b>Halloween Café,</b> Saturday 25th October, 5pm. Derek and Michael are planning the Halloween Cafe.</p> <p><b>Craft Fair.</b> Sunday 30th November, 11 – 4pm. Elena to oversee.</p> <p><b>Winter Warmer,</b> Sunday 14th December, 6pm. NCA Choir booked to perform.</p> <p><b>AGM: Now on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015, 10.30 – 12 noon.</b></p>	<p>All</p> <p>MP</p> <p>SA RM/SA</p> <p>DB/MP</p>
5	<p><b>Hut Issues</b> The ramp to the Gordon Rd end fire door has had a new retaining mechanism fitted; our thanks to James. The maintenance of the problematic floor in the piano room is ongoing.</p> <p>Rubbish and noise issues continue to arise from users ignoring the hut booking rules. We recognised that the wording about rubbish is unclear; Su will redraft it and send to Peter and Jackie.</p> <p>A complaint had been received from a local resident about Friday night noise in the park from hut users. Some amendments to the hut booking conditions are under consideration, but will be discussed at the next Forum meeting before any alterations are made. Derek will make and install 'Please leave quietly for the sake of the neighbours' signs.</p> <p><b>Repairs/Health &amp; Safety.</b> Wood is rotting by the guttering at the Gordon Road end, which will be the responsibility of the Exeter City Council. Michael will contact Galvin Short to report it, and the blocked guttering. He will copy James in on the email.</p> <p>Su is kindly drawing up plans for putting back the curtains, which are on track.</p> <p>Plans for duplicates of the existing metal notice board have proved to be too expensive. James will explore the design and erection of a notice board to be placed on the side of the hut similar to the one on the Pennsylvania community hut.</p>	<p>SA</p> <p>SA</p> <p>DB</p> <p>MP</p> <p>SA</p> <p>JL</p>
6	<p><b>AOB</b> We agreed that Su and Rory are delegated to sign off the association's Annual Report when it is written.</p>	

7	<b>Date of next meeting</b> Our next 'Open Forum' is on <b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am.</b> Rory will circulate the agenda.	RM
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