

**Newtown Community Association Meeting  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 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).

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
1	<b>Apologies:</b> None	
2	<b>Review of minutes of the previous meeting.</b> No outstanding items.	
3	<b>Treasurer's report.</b> Our gazebo needs to be replaced. Derek will order a Coleman Event Shelter, 4.5 M square, and will explore branding and waterproofing options, and will order in January. We agreed to forward £600 to the Polish 307 squadron funds in advance of the promised grant funds arriving in our account.	DB
4	<b>Charity Commission annual return</b> Has been returned, and was simpler this year due to us having a 2014 turnover of under £25000. Thanks were expressed to Su.	
5	<b>The Vision</b> We agreed that now is the time to explore lower-cost options, following the struggle to raise sufficient funds to build the original design. We will explore cheaper 'Plan B' build option and bring suggestions to our next meeting.	All
6	<b>Rhino Project</b> Jackie, Su, Fiona and Jess (community artist) will coordinate the Rhino design process. Two open-to-all-in-Newtown 'design cafes' (Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan and Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 11 – 3pm) are booked. A panel (membership tbc) will agree the winning design which Fiona's art team will apply by April. It will then get varnished by the zoo, and will return to the park as part of the 'Rhino trail', which will also be its long-term home.	SA
7	<b>Ward Boundary Changes</b> Boundary changes are confirmed and will come into force from May 2016; we will be part of 'Newtown & St Leonards'. We anticipate no immediate impact on our events, but will make contact with St Leonards Community Association in due course to discuss potential implications and opportunities for our associations. We will need to restate in a re-worded constitution our specified 'membership boundary', but we envisage it will closely resemble the current Newtown ward's. That might also be the moment to consider wider issues of constitution, such as whether we wish to become a limited company or a community trust with charitable status. We will invite Paul Lacey from St James Community Trust to a future committee meeting, possibly in March, to assist us in that thinking.	RM
8	<b>Pride of Exeter</b> We agreed not to pursue this.	
9	<b>Hut hire charges &amp; NCA events</b> We noted that NCA events currently take approx 8 hpw of hut time, but pay no hut hire charge, which is contributing to a reduced income (a potential loss of £48pw). In light of our impending losses this year, we agreed that regular NCA events (currently the Spanish classes, the choir, Qigong and the Social Cafe) should start paying the £6 ph hut hire from January 1st 2016. Su will implement with regard to the Social Cafe & Qigong and will notify Oscar, Derek will notify Peter Montgomery. How that charge will be paid will be up to those running the events; some will come from grant income, some from increased subscriptions.	SA DB
10	<b>Exeter Community Forum</b> Rory has again attended on our behalf. The necessity for communities to get involved was reemphasised. The ECF consultants will report to the Council in April 2016 on how the ECF envisages to distribution of the Community Infrastructure Levy monies.	

11	<p><b>Hut Issues</b>  Lights remain an issue, and it seems it's not the fault of the bulbs. Our thanks to James for all his work who will continue to explore the problem.  A strap to secure the ladder in the kitchen will kindly be fitted by James.  Rory will source and fit a suitable piece of wood to enhance disability access.</p>	JL JL RM
12	<p><b>Events:</b>  <b>Halloween Café</b>, Saturday 31st October, was cancelled due to lack of volunteers.  A successful <b>Social Cafe outing to the Met Office</b> has taken place. Our thanks to Steve and Sally Palmer for providing the transport.  <b>Sat 21<sup>st</sup> November: Open Forum Meeting.</b> 10am start. Dr Neil Macleod will be talking about health in the community.  <b>Craft Fair. Sunday 29th November, 11 – 4pm.</b> Elena and Su are organising.  <b>Winter Warmer</b>, Sunday 13th December, 6pm-8pm. £3 entrance fee agreed. Rory will coordinate tickets and charging on the door.</p>	SA RM
13	<p><b>Date of next committee meeting: Mon 18th Jan 2016 7.30pm at Clifton Hill</b>  <b>AGM Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Feb., 10am – 1pm.</b></p>	All