

General Committee Meeting, Tuesday 1 March 2011

MINUTES

**Present:** Rob Hobley (new Treasurer), Michael Parrott (Publicity), Jackie Holdstock (Bookings), Cllr Roger Spackman (ECC), Cllr Richard Westlake (DCC), Ian Harrison (Chair), George Dumble, Paul Giblin (Exeter Respect), Peter Montgomery, Sue Aves, Gay Smith (Secretary), Jacky Cox.

**Apologies:** Cllr Richard Branston, Marina Williamson, Tess Nixon

Item	Action
1. <b>Notes of Meeting 18.1.11</b> Agreed and signed.	
2. <b>Have your Say Police Report</b> There was no report.	
<p>3. <b>Treasurer's Update</b> Peter Montgomery, the outgoing Treasurer, introduced Rob Hobley who is taking over that office. Peter reported that we are in surplus of £1,500 for the last year and have £5,000 in reserve. It is likely that we will have additional expenses this year as follows, which may mean that we have to raise the hire charges. The additional expenses are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Rental grant from ECC £2,000 – in the current financial situation it is not yet clear whether this amount will be granted for this year or whether it may be reduced but Cllr Spackman reassured us that he anticipated that we would most likely receive the full grant at least for this year.</li> <li>b) Electricity bills from EDF – these seem to vary widely and we are still trying to sort this.</li> <li>c) Recycling and rubbish removal - £120 per annum</li> <li>d) South West Water – historically our bill has been paid by . ECC through the Scrapstore but we are now to be billed. We don't know yet how much this will be.</li> <li>e) We need to change cheque account signatories. Peter and Rob will discuss.</li> </ul>	Peter and Rob
<p>4. <b>Proposal to Switch off Street Lighting</b> There is a DCC proposal to switch off street lights on side roads from 12.30 am to 5.30 am. Lights on the main roads will remain on. It has been agreed that it is necessary to hold a consultation on this as there may be some areas, e.g. in the city centre where there is more pedestrian traffic where it would be better to leave the lights on, for example, in areas like Newtown and Polsloe. Cllr Westlake asked those attending the meeting what they felt about this. Ian felt that it was not a good idea to switch off lights in an area like Newtown and Cllr Spackman reported that students and Police were all opposed. Issues of safety were discussed along with ideas from George for more environmentally friendly solutions such as LED lights, solar power and movement sensitive switches. George asked that Cllr Westlake take these suggestions to DCC Officers considering this matter for current or future consideration. Sue suggested 3.30 am to 5.30 am in the</p>	

<p>inner city. Cllr Spackman questioned whether turning off the lights would affect the night-time economy. It was mentioned by some that lights in Belmont Park are still insufficient for safety. Cllr Westlake will let Gay have a consultation document to circulate to Newtown residents on our distribution list. It was agreed that councillors might carry out informal consultations at some of our cafes.</p>	<p>Cllr Westlake and Gay</p>
<p><b>5. Exeter Respect Festival 4 and 5 June 2011</b> This is Exeter's annual festival to celebrate diversity. Last year a total of 13,500 visitors attended over the two days. There were no complaints at all from ECC or residents except for one misplaced complaint about an event at the Globe. Paul Giblin wanted to secure the support of NCA for this year.</p> <p>The event will be open on the Saturday from 12 noon to 7 pm and on the Sunday from 12 noon to 6 pm. Setting up will take place on the Friday and it was agreed that Paul will have use of the hut from Friday afternoon for a cafe and office. It was requested by Paul that the fee for the hire of the hut for 2.5 days in 2011 will be £250 and that this fee will be paid providing that the Festival breaks even. Following some discussion, the Chair agreed to Paul's proposal. Paul advised that if NCA wished to man a stall a space will be made available. This matter was not discussed but the Chair thanked Paul and said that he would consider this offer.</p> <p>It was agreed that from Friday afternoon fences will be erected and people will not be allowed into that enclosure. Regular hirers of the hut have already been informed that the hut is not available at this time. The Committee were pleased to note that the fencing would be set up in such a way as to allow dog walkers to exercise their dogs during this period.</p> <p>Evening events will be held at Lemon Grove and the Phoenix to avoid disturbing residents. Residents living near the park will be leafleted to inform them of the event.</p>	<p>Gay – stall?</p>
<p><b>6. Future Events</b></p> <p>a) <b>Harvest Event</b> It was agreed that this had been a great success and it is anticipated that Harvest will make a welcome appearance at future cafes. Because of the large number of people attending the Harvest event, it was agreed that it should be suggested to Ellie that they might look at bringing along a tent to accommodate the additional people. George mentioned that he had spoken to Ellie at the Harvest Event and suggested to her various possible sources for a second tent.</p> <p>b) <b>Temporary Events Notice</b> It was agreed that Gay should apply for a Temporary Events Notice (TEN) to cover the year which will enable us to spill out onto the immediate area of the park outside the hut when we need to.</p>	<p>Harvest</p>

<p>c) <b>Continental Cafe 10 April</b> The Gabys had decided to do their baking at home which releases the kitchen on 9 April. Peter is still looking for music. George reminded Peter that he was able to provide CD's of some suitable supplementary music for the Continental Cafe providing that Peter was able to provide a suitable CD player.</p> <p>d) <b>African Cafe</b> Ian will speak to Julien.</p> <p>e) <b>Blitz Cafe 8 May</b> Gay explained that Michael had met some residents who might like to come along and "host" a small historical exhibition. It was also agreed that some of Joan's elderly people from Cleveland Court might like to come along. There was some discussion about whether we were going to run a special free event for an elderly group and it was noted that tea parties were very popular. Ian will visit Joan's group at a coffee morning to tell them more about the association and our cafes. George asked us to remember that there were a large number of other elderly groups and alms houses in the area who should be included.</p> <p>f) <b>Belmont 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations</b> Michael has done an enormous amount of historical research towards this and Gay has drafted a programme for the day (attached).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gay agreed to make a focussed plea to people who have helped in the past and those who have offered help in the future to try to get a cafe rota going especially for this event which will require two five hour sessions over a weekend.</li> <li>• George offered to assist with the Belmont 125 weekend. It was suggested that we should approach corporate organisations such as Cornerstone and Guinness Trust for help with the event.</li> <li>• Su will lead on the time capsule with Newtown School and St Sidwells School and Gay will supply Su with information about this.</li> <li>• Gay has been unsuccessful in contacting the Salvation Army Band and it was suggested that we contact a local railway band. Gay will ask Cllr Westlake if he can help with this.</li> <li>• Also St Matthews Church, Belmont Chapel and the Air Scouts.</li> <li>• Gay and Michael have drafted letters to local businesses and residents.</li> <li>• There is a need for help with all this, preferably through a sub-committee. Anyone able to help please contact Gay on secretary@newtowncommunity.org.uk. Gay has access to bunting.</li> </ul>	<p>Gay</p> <p>Peter Ian</p> <p>Peter Michael Ian Gay George</p> <p>Gay</p> <p>Ian</p> <p>Su Gay</p> <p>Gay Ian Michael All</p>
<p><b>7. The Vision (proposed new building)</b> Ian reported that Rob</p>	

<p>Attwater, our architect who initiated the project will now be working away from Exeter, either in London or Bath, and so would not be available. However, they have had quite a lot of success with persuading Waitrose to cover the cost of putting together a proposal package for the new building in the sum of £7,500 which will enable us to go for the big funding. Also Waitrose has agreed to let us have the first go at their community funding scheme when they open in November.</p> <p>Midas who is building the new Waitrose store have agreed to construct some cupboards for our chairs free of charge. There was some discussion about the location of the cupboards and it was agreed that they should run beneath the two notice boards in the left hand room.</p>	<p>Ian and George</p>
<p><b>8. Booking Form</b></p> <p>a) Peter and Jackie tabled a new, simple booking form which will be used to record bookings. Hirers will need to pay at least one week in advance of their booking before the door code is released. Cheques can be posted to Jackie and cash can be posted through the door with the form.</p> <p>b) It was agreed that we are not yet ready for online booking but the form will be available on line for printing off as a hard copy.</p> <p>c) Jackie will send the form to all the regulars to ensure that we have up to date contact information on file.</p> <p>d) Gay and Jackie will meet soon to update the hire agreement information.</p> <p>e) George wished it to be noted that the hut is used by all sorts of people and not only Newtown users. He felt that we should look at the possibility of charging more to those commercial users who do not serve the Newtown Community.</p>	<p>Jackie Gay</p>
<p><b>9. Projects – Football Wall</b></p> <p>a) Ian has received notification from the Police Property Fund of an award of £756 towards the cost of the proposed football wall.</p> <p>b) We have also received £300 from our Exeter City Councillor subject to undertaking a consultation and Cllr Westlake has said that we may put £1,500 from his fund for 2010/2011 towards this project. He has also offered a second amount of £1,500 out of the fund for 2011/2012.</p> <p>c) The consultation will be addressed to residents in the vicinity of the proposed wall.</p> <p>d) Ian has had discussions with Paul Faulkner of ECC on location, size and materials to be used. It could be made largely of faced blockwork and measure 10' x 6'.</p>	<p>Ian</p>
<p><b>10. Raised Beds</b> Ellie of Harvest has agreed to take these on and the Home Educators group are keen to work with her.</p>	<p>Harvest</p>
<p><b>11. Constitution</b> It was agreed to form a sub-committee as follows: George Dumble, Su Aves and Rob Hobley. Gay agreed to provide the necessary email addresses. Subsequent to the meeting consideration was given to the sub-committee including representatives of the Property Trustees as they were required to approve any proposed changes to the Constitution and it was felt</p>	<p>George Gay</p>

<p>that it would be helpful if at least some of these people heard the reasoning for some recommended changes. It was agreed that Gay would provide contact email or telephone numbers to George for these Trustees.</p>	
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<p><b>12.AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Peter will set up email addresses for those of the General Committee who want one.</li> <li>b) Sue, the cleaner needs a vacuum cleaner. It was not agreed who would arrange the purchase of this.</li> <li>c) Gay will ask Sue to do some extra hours washing down the walls where there are spills.</li> <li>d) The Stoneman &amp; Bowker student development planning meeting is postponed until 21 March. Cllr Roger Spackman will represent Newtown at the meeting. He advised that we should use a pragmatic approach to mitigate the effects of such a development as it is unlikely to be refused as the Association is not in a position to influence the outcome.</li> </ul>	<p>Ian Gay  All</p>
<p><b>13. Date of Next Meeting</b> Tuesday 26 April 2011 at 8.15 pm</p>	