

NCA Committee Meeting

Monday, 25 March 2024, 7:00 – 8:30 pm in person at the Community Centre and by Zoom

Welcome and apologies

Present: Steve Palmer, Kev Winser, Ella Westland, Jean Kinber, Jane Tymkow, Alex Leaver, Richard Branston

Apologies: Kerrie Seymour, Su Aves. Rachael Shah

Co-option of Alex Leaver and Jane Tymkow as Trustees.

Passed.

Approval of Minutes – 12th February 2024

Approved

Matters arising

None

Newtown Community Centre – Manager's report

Discussion of payments from EJO. Agreed that Steve will contact Will, then Steve and Kev will attend an EJO rehearsal. Jane – reported on Qigong (currently not an NCA activity).

Need to put up signs about use of the recycling bin.

Respect festival – Noted that Suuad no longer wishes to use the Centre. Discussion of the idea of inviting regular users to do demo sessions during the festival.

Discussion of noticeboards. Ella will attempt to contact the supplier of the top board to get a specification for the pinboard.

Well done to Kerrie for turning round the Devon Live journalist. Jayne – Devon Air is back broadcasting.

Finance Report

Jean is near finishing the 2023 accounts; Steve and Jean to meet, then meet with the accountant Trevor Mills.

Respect Festival arrangements

See above under Managers report.

Maintenance

See Managers Report.

Extractor fan in the kitchen not working (fuse?). The kettle in the loft room needs replacing.

Jane – raised issue of the muddy ground between the west end of the verandah and the tarmac of the play area. Could we negotiate with Parks and Open Spaces to put down paving slabs?

Friends of Belmont Park

Jane – Discussion of issues with gates.

Richard - Lighting in the park – two new lights in place, but more to be added.

Revenue generation, grants and Projects

- Taiko Drumming workshop - happened
- Garden for the bees signs – signs being made, deposit paid.
- Art workshops – three held.
- Warm bank – 4 sessions held.
- Ideas for new projects wanted. Possible community cooking?

Events

Future events? Discussion of Summer event in late June, early July – Kev, Kerrie, Alex, Jane and Jean all willing to be part of discussion. Action: Kev and Kerrie to start the discussion.

Website, social media

New website nearly ready to go live.

Social media – 2 business profiles on Google (Association and hut) – Alex will try to combine them, but Google are not very helpful. The phone numbers have been sorted out.

There is a LinkedIn profile but very old.

Kev to check with Steve F about linkage of the new website to social media.

AOB

None

Next Meeting Date – Monday 20 May 2024 at 7pm

Close at 21:00.

Managers' Report 25/3/2024

Regular Bookings

Qigong x2 per week
Heels with Harley
Over 50s exercise
Violin lessons
Adult Tap
Bulgarian Dance
Bulgarian Sunday School
Zumba
Yoga with Natasha x 2
Samatha Meditation
Exeter Malayee Association
Exeter Flutes
Martial Arts group
FearFree Project
Devon Rape Crisis Support service
Salvation Sanctuary Church
Le Petite French School
Dad's and tiny tots group - Monthly
Exeter Young Strings - bi monthly
Wordworks - new booking
DoReMi - has returned to us having moved to a different space
Bodywork 1:1 therapeutic movement - new booking

NCA Activities

The Social Cafe Cafe visitors to the cafe are creating some bunting which will be put up to attract visitors., this will be an on going activity in the coming months. I'm also programming some talks for future cafes as these have proved popular

Roots band is well attended and payments are regular, especially since the introduction of the card machine. Roots band income is covering both Ali's fee and the hire costs of the space.

Jazz Band is well attended however payments remain low from participants so the group continues to run at a loss.

One off Party Bookings

We are beginning to see a rise in party bookings for the spring summer as predicted.

Maintenance

PAT Testing is up to date and new fire extinguishers are in place

Air con system annual check is booked in for next week

No further Nappy waste issues reported by SW Hygiene so no need to buy additional bins

We now have a recycling bin. Many thanks to Steve P for chasing this

Website redesign

Steve F has been working hard on the redesign of the NCA website which is close to launch. We have also received some new images from groups using the space which have really helped to bring the activities page to life. Steve has done a wonderful job

Warm bank space

Thank you to Kev, Jean, Steve P and Steve F for their support in delivering the warm space provision. This year was very quiet with only 3 members of the public coming along to the sessions. we advertised via social media, posters locally and sent out to all our group contacts. I think the low turn out was partly due to the weather being much

milder than last year which was very cold and icy. This year we introduced puzzles and board games, and some artist time for some of the sessions in the hope that we might help remove the stigmas of accessing a needs based provision and create a more relaxed and informal space. There has been a desire for more regular craft activities, its something people ask for, however it takes a lot of planning and resources and even when offering this we saw a very low turn out. Many thanks to Richard for the additional funding to bring in an artist to lead on some craft sessions. She has helped to kick start the bunting making project as well as show us how to make felt pictures, make rag rugs and how to knit.

Taiko Session

The Taiko session was a big success, all places were fully booked with 15 people attending. We received some wonderful feedback. Many thanks to Matt for the funding to make this happen

New initiatives

*We now have period poverty boxes in all toilet cubicles, offering sanitary products to those who need it. Folk are encouraged to take if they need and replace if they can

*We now have a book swap bookcase in the corridor for anyone who wants to take or take and replace a book

*Planters - We have had an offer for some plants to be donated in the spring so we can breath some new life into our seat and planter boxes outside

*im still looking into Community de-fib training sessions

Respect Festival

After some discussion Suaad no longer wishes to use the centre for the Respect Festival. A few of our regular groups wish to hire the space as normal during the weekend and Suaad has assured me they will be able to enter the park without having to pay an entry fee at the gate. Suaad has asked to use the water like before and we will take a meter reading at the beginning and end of the festival.

Devon Live

We received an email from Devon Live who are writing an article about Newtown. They made particular reference to the issues in the local area re student population, parking etc. The young journalist who is in her final year at university and is on placement with Devon Live came along to the warm bank space to interview me without this being arranged or agreed. She was honest that she had been asked to look at the issues in Newtown. It was clear that there was an angle. Devon Live manipulated an interview a few years ago and used a conversation with the NCA in a rather gutter press article about drugs in the park so i was not about to let this happen again. I explained that we would be far more interested in contributing to an article about the centre itself, one that highlights and celebrate all the wonderful and diverse groups who use the space, rather than an article that focuses on the negative issues in the area. I invited her to stay and join us, which she did, she had a cup of tea, did some knitting and spoke to the three community members who had visited the warm space that day. They are also people who attend other activities in the centre so they had lots of positive things to say. She was going to speak to her boss about if she could run a story on the NCA.

FINANCE REPORT FOR NCA COMMITTEE MEETING - 25th March 2024

CARDNET

Will from EJO is still not using the cardnet machine.

EJO & ROOTS BAND

Roots Band is doing really well. The subscriptions pay all the expenses and has excess.

Since the last meeting in February nothing has changed with regard to EJO's attendees not paying. It's the same few people paying in the bank.

Since January we haven't received any register or invoice from EJO.

Finance Report

	12th February 2024	25th March 2024
Current account:	£8138.30	£7625.91
Savings account:	£20,502.76	£20,564.12