

**Newtown Community Association Open Forum Meeting
Saturday 23rd February 2019, 10:30 am, Belmont Hut**

Minutes

Present: **Trustees:** Rory McNeile (Chair), Steve Palmer (Secretary), Jackie Holdstock, Ella Westland, Julia Crockett, David Hunt, Peter Montgomery, Karolina Borkowska-Knight

Members, representatives etc: Richard Branston, Sue Aves, Natalie Vizard, William Batty, David Hebborn, Doris Marcelo, Jayne Leaver, Ali Jones, Sally Palmer, Julie Belshaw, Zhiuko Zhelev, Mariya Zheleva, Edward Belshaw

Apologies: Gareth Carey-Jones (Treasurer), Mathew Vizard, Steve Aves, Kat Thompson,

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action by:</u>
1	Welcome/Introduction/Apologies - Chair	
2	<p>New Community Building – update on progress. Rory – presentation and summary of progress, key decisions to date – cladding, doors/windows, air conditioning, PV. Decisions to be made: lighting, CCTV, access system, flooring, door finish, painting. Cost update: detail available. Fixed price contracts with provisional sums. Current estimate £4000 over available funding. Suggestions to keep within available funding: to not fit kitchen and not fit wall-mount halo lights and to do later when additional funds have been raised; use timber deck for area under veranda. Transition – start with use by NCA bodies to debug before opening to public lettings.</p>	
3	<p>Discussion of Use and Management of our new Community Building - Questions and topics raised: Should dogs be allowed? (Note – since main door entry will be from outside the children’s play area, there is no conflict with restriction provided dogs do not exit through the French windows.) Balancing groups with incompatible requirements, especially noise transmission between rooms in the building. Newtown groups to have priority? Need to develop rules. NB users groups are responsible for safeguarding, and for their own insurance. (Action - need to check info on website.) Question – pop-up cafes etc outside building (might not involve hire of building). Discussion of costs. Aim to keep rent of small room similar to current £7 per hour, with higher charge for larger room and kitchen. Increase differential between occasional and regular users. Suggestion - to qualify for discount, regular users should support open community events. Increase charges for commercial hire. Rota of people to check security.</p>	Sec

4	Ideas for the name of our new Community Building Ideas invited	
5	Friend of Belmont Park – play area ideas and consultation ECC allocated £50K. Jo Evans had consultation with Parks. Agreed phase 1 to refurbish equipment at bottom end. Phase 2 will be planned using input from equipment providers – two potential suppliers are being consulted initially to gather ideas.	
6a	Community Updates – Jayne Leaver (Newtown Community Builder) Potluck meal 24 th . Community café Sunday 3 March	
6b	Community Updates – Newtown & St Leonards Ward Councillors: Richard Branston – Clifton Hill plans – 10% to be kept as green space. Natalie Vizard - Future of ski slope – decision to be made on Tuesday. Public toilets consultation. 20-year plan on ECC site open for consultation. Su Aves – Individual emails carry more weight than petition. DCC main budget this week. Declared a Climate Emergency. Council tax increasing by 3.99%, but spending increasing especially on children’s services. DCC Locality grant funding fully spent, renews in May.	
6c	Community Updates – Police: Nil	
6d	Community Updates – University Wardens Nil	
7	NCA Projects Sandford Walk green area – Su Aves – DCC agreed to keep for community use. Codrington Street Planting – William Batty – Locality grant made. Leafletted residents, 11 responses, planning window boxes and planting green space in Triangle car park. Clifton Hill pub participating, Bernaville Nurseries giving discount. Contacting Belmont Chapel to use car park for window box planting.	
11	Future events: Respect Festival 8/9th June NCA New Building Launch Saturday 29 th June – 11 am – 3pm. Showcase activities which happen in the hut – slots for groups to promote themselves with two 15-minute taster sessions. Peter Montgomery organising, he will circulate to regular users.	PM
12	Any other business of which notice has been given to the chair None	
13	Date of next meeting NCA AGM Saturday 11 th May 2019, 10:30 – 12:30	