

NCA Committee Meeting

18th November 2019, 7:30pm at Newtown Community Centre

Welcome and apologies

Present: Peter Montgomery (chair), Steve Palmer, Rory McNeile, James Leigh, Nikki Milican, Jo Evans (until 20:00), Moragh Mason, Doris Marcelo Sanchez (arrived 20:20), Julia Crockett (arrived 20:30)

Non-voting - Jayne Leaver, Su Aves

Apologies - Jackie Holdstock

Approval of Minutes – 25 September 2019

Approved

Treasurer's Report

James – met Gareth on Friday.15/11. Gareth will now direct everything to James and act as backstop. James will now start logging invoices etc. James will set up BACS payments, and request approval from the 3 other signatories.

£48K approx. in the account, this includes £20K for demolition plus £9K Fifiields retention (to be paid once snagging list finished).

James will consult Bowhill Consulting about the 2019 Inspection.

Rory will pass James the building costs projection planning.

Nikki suggested having a second account for reserves.

Friends of Belmont Park

Update from Jo:

Swings are in place, one to be changed to a tandem swing. A mid-years adventure play frame is being installed near the swings (it is second hand one from Pinhoe play area). Benches – council may be able to provide these, charging to the £50K (at about £700 each) (or possibility of donation of in memoriam benches). ECC estimate £6K will remain of the £50K after the current work. Hedge of sensory garden reduced, and gaps opened up. FOBP suggest a mid-years adventure play frame could be installed at the old hut location, but no funding identified.

A volunteer is doing pruning etc in Sensory Garden. Matthew Vizard is consulting police on other possible measures. Suggestion that William Batty could be approached for advice on plants and care. Discussion of notice boards. One at the top gate is working well. Metal board needs refurbishment, new pinboard. Discussion of a second board outward facing by the main gate. Ella is looking into a new board in Clifton Road. (Note from Jayne – ward grants are now up to £500.)

ECC suggest community volunteers could paint the older railings round the childrens play area – ECC will provide paint and brushes – Jo is planning an evening group to do this, perhaps with GoodGym. Planting – aiming for mature plants by Gordon Road, where table-tennis was removed (suggestions for plants wanted).

New Building

Removal of old hut (Rory and Jo)

There were two previous commercial demolition quotes with no reuse of the building. Kes Magee has looked and is keen to re-use the building for an education project, and has a workable plan, but the quote received used full commercial rate, especially for labour. He has revised figures, and offered his own labour at no cost. Could reduce further with other volunteer labour for two weeks. Rory will clarify on the VAT position. Jo has two other possible contacts – will check and pass to Rory.

Rory recommends getting price down within the £20K budgeted, then go ahead as quickly as possible.

Discussion of impact on other ideas (eg acoustic panels) which depend on available budget after demolition..

Respect Festival

Suuad – wants whole building for 3 days of the Respect Festival. Respect paid £100 in 2019; they are offering £150 for the whole building. She wants to hold a public art exhibition in the large room – note that this would involve public access to the building. Also wants use of disabled toilet. This would mean a loss of income, estimated at £450 per typical weekend.

Trustees felt that £150 is too little. Note that Respect usually take until Monday morning to clean (which affects regular Monday morning bookings) in addition to the loss over the weekend.

Discussion of how this would operate, including requiring security.

Discussion of NCA running a café from the kitchen, or pass over to another operator (e.g. St Sidwell Centre)? Should NCA run an art exhibition, or leave it to Respect? What visibility should NCA get from the opportunity?

Peter will draft a reply to Respect and circulate for comments (Peter).

Website / Social media / Newsletter

Workstream to sort out this area – Peter, Nikki, Jo, Moragh. Agreed to meet separately. Promotion of hosted activities to be considered by this group.

Other Promotion

Leaflet drop – using the already printed leaflets. Drop at key locations – library, schools, bowling green, St Sidwells Centre, doctors surgeries (Isca and Mt Pleasant.), Belmont Chapel

Notice Boards (see above under FOBP).

Winter Warmer (15th December, 6 – 9pm)

Actions and volunteers:

Roots band, Choir (doing same set at Belmont Chapel and Winter Warmer). Leading on catering: Nikki (has food hygiene certificate).

Current Grant Applications

Defer to next full Trustees meeting.

Next Meeting Date

Special NCA Committee meeting Monday 25th November 2019, 7:30pm at Newtown Community Centre (Rory to take minutes).

AOB

Consultation by cathedral on planning changes to the Chapter House and Cloister. Discussed draft letter to cathedral and approved for Julia to send (Julia).

Meeting closed at 20:50