

CORNHILL COMMUNITY ACTION

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 31st August 2022 at 18.00, Village Hall

1. **Trustees Present:** William Carrington
Elizabeth Devon
Martin Devon
Anne Legge
David Richmond
Steve Wright

apologies: Oliver Wright

plus: Chrissy Caley (CPC)
Stephanie Carrington (CPC)

2. **Minutes** of the meeting and AGM on 16th May were agreed and signed by Martin.

3. There were no **matters arising** which were not on the agenda.

4. **Funding**

On August 30th, we heard we had been awarded £10,000 from the National Lottery Awards for All. Steve was especially pleased about this as he said it was a good grant to have and would encourage other funders.

He has also applied, or is applying, to:

Community Foundation (Tyne and Wear) - £4,700. Result by 26th October.

Garfield Weston - £15,000 (but expects £10,000). Result between 12th October and
9th November.

Climate Change Fund - amount not yet determined. Result end of November.

Martin, with Steve's approval, has applied to the James Knott Trust - £5,500. Result soon.

The total conversion estimate was	£74000
Less work completed and paid	£23000
work remaining to be done, estimate	£53000
Grant confirmed	£10000
still required	£43000 (of which £20,200 has been applied for)

5. **The Future** (*queries arising from Elizabeth's email of 15th August*)

This discussion was to answer the concerns raised by David at the July PC meeting regarding the future management of the charity and the Cornhill on Tweed Centre.

Martin and Elizabeth agreed to continue as trustees until the building is finished and at least some of the units are let. Elizabeth submitted the annual return to the Charity Commissioners this year and is happy to do this next year too. However, she is unwilling to manage the rentals and day-to-day running of the Centre.

William and Anne agreed that they would be willing to take over the finances once the building is functioning.

Steve will continue as funding trustee at least until the refurbishment work is completed.

David is willing to continue as a trustee responsible for safety for the time being though he stated that his main responsibility to the village is as a member of CPC.

Oliver's email response: "I do indeed want to remain involved and am happy to take on the running of the social media accounts, which will be set up in the next two weeks. These will be operated in accordance with the social media policy already published.

We must also decide as a committee on a media strategy for involving local press, and the right time to do this. This is imperative in attracting tenants to the site.

As for other young people who may wish to be involved - I can't be certain of anyone. Sorry! I haven't lived permanently in Cornhill for four years now, so connections are limited."

Steve suggested that we apply for funding to employ a manager for at least a year, paying £15 per hour for, say, 12 hours per week. We would have to add 20% to that to cover employer's costs.

David commented that he thought in the present difficult economic climate, it will be hard to let the units. He definitely agreed with the appointment of a manager. However, he feels that his previously raised concerns have been addressed as best they can be for the time being.

6. More trustees

William stated that the problems of recruiting for organisations like ours, or for the Parish Council, never go away. He said that it is vital to make sure that the right people are recruited.

We need to be aware that sometimes people join organisations because, (a) they think it elevates their status; (b) they have their own agenda; (c) they are not sufficiently intelligent. He concluded that it is better to manage with a few dedicated people rather than recruiting the wrong type of person. These comments were agreed by all attendees.

Martin suggested in the email of 15th August that we have a representative of the tenants on the Board of Trustees. Maggie Read is committed to renting a unit. Elizabeth agreed to ask her to be such a trustee. *(She subsequently agreed).*

Elizabeth also said that she would like to see the Village Hall committee represented on the Board. Everyone agreed and Chrissy Caley offered to be that person. She was welcomed with enthusiasm.

7. Building

Martin reported that both electricity and water had been done as far as SP Energy Networks and Northumbrian Water were concerned. A separate accredited contractor is needed to connect the water the last 3m across the drive and a contract for electrical metering and supply is needed for the electricity.

Stephanie agreed to contact Paul Ashton about the removal of the sycamore which is impacting on future work at the back of the building.

8. Publicity

The 'holding' Cornhill on Tweed Centre website which had a web address www.cornhillcommunityaction.org.uk has expired. Oliver and Martin have agreed that Martin should take it on, adding it to his secure server in the London Telehouse. They agreed that now is a good time to change its name to the more appropriate <https://www.cornhillontweedcentre.org.uk>. *(This is now live and work is taking place on it. All comments and suggestions welcome. Please note that the charity's 'chronology' and 'policies and procedures' can now be found in the link to 'About us' on the website.)*

Also, the email address of cca@cornhillcommunityaction.org.uk is no longer functioning. A new email address has been set up contact@cornhillontweedcentre.org.uk. This is functioning now.

Until Oliver can set up social media pages, Elizabeth is using the Cornhil Social History Facebook page to tell those who use it what is happening. Hopefully word will spread. We could also ask the Village Shop to put important news on their Facebook page.

9. a.o.b.

Public Meeting

William said he thought it was imperative to hold a public meeting in the Village Hall to explain to the community that CPC now owns the school and playing field making them safe from any undesirable future development. He described graphically what can occur when inappropriate housing is built in a rural community.

Everyone agreed but decided that the building work must be further on before we hold the meeting. Steve suggested that we apply for funding to employ a marketing company like Impact Art to organise the public event. We agreed that this was a splendid idea.

Illuminated Sheep

The Lindisfarne Gospels are coming to the NE in the autumn and to celebrate a Visual Arts trail has been set up in Northumberland in which model sheep will be displayed in various places for people to visit. Elizabeth explained that the Cornhill Events Team had applied for a sheep and had been successful, though our success is not supposed to be widely known yet. The sheep will arrive at the end of October and will be housed in the quiet space between Units 2 and 3 in the Cornhill on Tweed Centre. Events will be organised and, hopefully, it will attract lots of visitors. It is unlikely that building work will have resumed by then so a clear-up of both inside and outside the building would be needed. David and Chrissy volunteered to help with this.

10. Date of next meeting

We agreed that this should be just before the next CPC meeting which is in November. A date of Wednesday 26th October at 6/00 in the Village Hall has been suggested.