**Minutes of Levens Institute Wednesday 19 September 2018**

**Present:** Stephen Read, Alan Miller, Sheila Watson, Hugh Connor, Frank Routledge & Susie Bagot,

**Apologies:** Helen Miller, John Wood, Mary Orr, Wendy Mobbs, Kath Dawson and Chris Riley

**Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of l6 May 2018 were approved as drafted. matters arising are listed on the agenda.

**Chair’s report**

See Joint Venture Agreement below.

**Secretary’s report**

Alan explained that he had firm bookings for Kendal and District Philatelic Society and a Yoga class (Jenny Brindle), plus 2 new pop /rock groups were using the Institute for practise. The Kent Estuary Young Farmers had made enquiries but had not agreed firm dates

**Treasurers Report.**

John had forwarded the figures for each account as of 30 August

Current account £6910.19

Teachers building Society £5,000.00

COIF £33,991.27 (30 June)

Monthly Draw £1,269.00

As Barclays at Milnthorpe is closing on 30 November he plans to talk to Barclays to activate online banking. He is also to enquire if Peter Smith can be added to the signatories for the monthly draw account. The interest on the Teachers B S account has been increased from 1.1% to 1.2% from 1 September.

John has, as yet, failed to remove the old lock to the cupboard for documents storage, as he broke his tool. He will try again shortly.

Frank pointed out that the P.O. at Milnthorpe (open whenever the newsagent is open) could deal with transactions for Barclays. Others thought that the part-time P.O. in the village may suffice.

Hugh reminded the committee that a sub group of 3 had been planned to look at finance matters but had not met. They need to do so to report at the next meeting.

**Joint Venture Agreement and Levens Community Project**

There had been a meeting of the Project committee, the Parish Council and ourselves at the institute on Tuesday 18 September. Martin Curry, the P.C. clerk, had given a Power Point presentation explaining the history of the idea for a larger village hall and then brought us up to date with the project. The business plan gave an outline of the time line for the project., which estimated the new village hall’s completion date as summer 2021. The project is dependant on selling Sizergh Fell Quarry and an option agreement has been entered into with a developer who is applying to LDNPA to vary the current planning permission.

That developer (PARTI) had invited the public to the Strickland Arms to view their plans. Several of the committee had visited the exhibition earlier today, which showed a horse-shoe arrangement of 12 houses plus two at the front. These would form a holiday home complex and not housing for sale, so the developer will need to change the planning permission and expects to submit the new application this month.

A general discussion followed including topics such as the effect a new planning permission may have upon the existing s106 agreement, the LDNPA’s requirement for affordable homes, the necessity for and the completion of the proposed tripartite agreement once the developer and the P.C. have exchanged contracts and agreed a completion date, all of which cannot be finalised until the outcome of the planning application is known. We await developments.

It was agreed that a note of thanks be sent to Martin Curry for the clarity of his presentation.

**Maintenance**

Stephen had received an estimate from Andrew Mallinson for the repair of the damp downstairs wall of £350 (+VAT). Andrew had been very quick to respond, but unfortunately no other replies from builders had been received. Stephen asked for other builder’s names and Andrew Kitchen was suggested. A decision will be made when further estimates have been obtained. Frank raised the question about VAT and how we may claim it back. This needs to be investigated for our next meeting.

**P.A systems.**

Paul Jones kindly attended to make a presentation following on from the last meeting. He produced detailed sheets showing price comparisons for speakers and mixing desks. All the equipment he listed would serve us very well and could be transferred to the new hall, although some additional base speakers may be needed. He provided a very comprehensive overview of prices and options. It was agreed with him that the best way forward was to allocate an amount of money and authorise him to select the best price for the individual items that were recommended and to report back to us, so that a firm order could be placed after our next meeting. It was agreed that a hearing loop was not practical at present. Paul has a portable system that could be loaned to us to test, and if successful, could be borrowed when needed.

It was agreed to let John Woods needs to see the documents so that a full discussion can take place at the next meeting.

Paul was thanked for his time and presentation.

**A.O.B.**

Stephen had received an offer of a wall clock from Allan Stewart. It was agreed to accept this offer.

Hugh reminded the committee of the two Highlights concerts booked for November.

Stephen thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 19.50.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 14 November at 6.30 at the Village Institute**