

**Upper Eskdale Development Group
Board Meeting,
Thursday 22th November at 6.30pm**

ACTIONS in Bold

Present: Ken Porter, Lindsay Reid, George Birrell, Victoria Long, Bernard Provost, Nina Finnigan, James King.

Apologies: Jennie Mills, Adrian Solomon

Conflict of Interest: None

Minutes of last meeting: These were passed as correct by Nina and James.

Matters arising:

Ken announced he was standing down from the board, due to too many other commitments. Nina and all the board thanked Ken for all his help. We were very sorry to see him go.

Kronospan has been considering setting up a pellet making organisation.

George will send his list of companies distributing pellets to Victoria.

Communication with Langholm Initiative and 3rd Sector:

Langholm Initiative: Nina has met with them. They are somewhat interested but there is a lot going on within their organisation. Nina will draw up a bid for them.

3rd Sector: next partnership meeting will be here in the building on 14th Dec.

This being the first meeting since our AGM, the board considered the appointment of office bearers: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Company Secretary.

The following was agreed:

Chair: Nina Finnigan

Vice-Chair: Lindsay Reid.

Treasurer: Adrian had agreed to continue as Treasurer.

Secretary: Victoria Long.

Company Secretary: James King

Reports

Events: **Kronospan are** kindly donating a Christmas Tree. This will be with us by Sunday, December 2nd.

The options for holding a Robbie Burns Murder Mystery instead of Buns Supper in February were discussed, or a Valentine's day massacre – costumed evening meal. It was decided not to hold a Burns event.

It was noted that there had been a booking of the Café and Hall for July 13th for about 100 people for a disco. Supervision will be needed.

There was a suggestion that we can contact the organisers of courses at Samye Ling to let them know that we are open and available for hire. **Adrian will follow this up.**

Finance:

A Profit & Loss report had not been received from our accountant for last month as yet. It appears that we may have made only a small deficit.

The Fan (in the kitchen) : apparently the doors are too small to get into it to do a proper clean. The best would be to contact the installers. Ashley, the main contractor, contracted this work out. A quote to £450 had been received for cleaning + putting in more doors for easier access. We need to find out who supplied the duct. **Nina will** look into this.

Dishwasher: To repair this will cost £455 + VAT. A new one costs £1,700 +VAT. Kevin Farrish from Dumfries was recommended by Ken. The majority were in favour of getting it fixed and serviced.

Photocopier: A new one could be included in an application to the Ewe Hill 16: a bid needs to be in before the end of January. Suggestions were: new computers, new printer that can print A3, possibly an internet café. **Ken will** look at what the Ewe Hill allocated funding to before.

Nina proposed that she work upstairs as development manager from the new year, since she feels it is worth being on the spot.

Adrian has proposed that we buy a Pool table for the bar: This will be about £500. One that turns into a table. It was agreed in principle and **Adrian will** investigate.

Deep Clean of the Kitchen: it was suggested this be done by an outside organisation during the winter and before we fully open again.

Agenda

Opening: because of the difficulty with volunteers and the expense of hiring staff until the end of the year the café will be open at weekends only.

Funding

There may be a further sum from Ewe Hill Windfarm funds via the Community Council awarded in the near future, that could be used for the balance needed for the hanging and lighting.

Defibrillator: Nina had been to a meeting to discuss the defibrillators around the area. It had been decided that we will continue to host this. The Community Councils **will be asked** to fund the upgrade of these.

Volunteers: We have one new volunteer and others are applying.

Setting date for clearing away bonfire debris: George agreed that we could have until the end of February.

Work day: There are a number of maintenance jobs to be done: scraping off doors and window sills, being one.

Training: There will be some **Bar Training by Nick Jennings**.

Customer Care: It was suggested that we have some training from an outside body for relating to the public. **Nina will look** into this for the new year.

Discount cards: It was decided that these should not be used in the Pop Up Café. Prices in the Café should go up 5% (overall) in Café from Jan. The discount should be kept at 20%. Only members with current membership cards are eligible for discounts and the café staff will be informed of this by Nina.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 13th December.