

Ponteland Community Partnership

Final Zoom Annual General Meeting Wednesday 7th April 2021 7 pm

Welcome from Chairman: Alma welcomed all present.

Attendance: Alma Dunigan, Chris Brummitt, Shirley Hill, Heather Thomas, Frank Harrington, Mike Brown, Nirmal Sehgal, George Clasper, Chris Winks, Christine Greenwell, due to technical problems Alan Varley and Pratima Mehra had difficulty returning to the second meeting.

Apologies: Yuvi Chauhan.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes of 2020-2021 AGM: Agreed.

Matters Arising: None.

Chairman's 2020-2021 Report:

AD wished to draw attendees notice to the fact that the A.G.M was being conducted via Zoom and would therefore be a tailored down version compared to a normal A.G.M format. This had been a difficult period since the last A.G.M in November.

This A.G.M covers the period 1st April 2020 to 7th April 2021. By bringing this meeting forward to the beginning of April it allows 2 weeks to prepare the Minutes of this AGM and to conduct a special meeting to consider the March Monthly Meeting Minutes and the final AGM Minutes of the PCP before our closing date of 22nd April 2021 when the insurance expires.

Correspondence from Guy Opperman MP:

'The Ponteland Community Partnership has been a wonderful hub for many brilliant local projects over nearly two decades. I would like to thank all those who have volunteered their time and skills to support the many great community projects which have made a real difference in people's lives. The sad news of the closing of the Partnership is only softened in the knowledge that the positive legacy it is leaving will continue on for many years to come.'

Subgroup Reports:

Management Group: No Zoom meetings just winding up discussions via email.

Editorial: No meetings have taken place. The PCP sends sincere gratitude and best wishes to the Editor for all his support over the past 14 years. It is hoped that an alternative editorial group will be set up between the PTC and the community with a neutral chairperson.

Projects: Physical and Mental Wellbeing Youth Projects November 2020-March 2021 completed.

Youth Forum: Yuvi Chauhan was thanked for his efforts to form a subgroup in previous years.

Treasurer's Report – 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021.

Introduction:

It has been particularly difficult in 2020-2021 for Ponteland Community Partnership with several lockdowns and significant restrictions as a result of Covid 19. The Partnership met by Zoom in October, January, February and March with a postponed AGM for 2019-20 in November 2020. A decision to close the PCP was made at the October 2020 meeting. After the initial lockdown Management met on a monthly basis to ensure the day to day running of the Partnership, its smooth closure and to focus on Youth Projects.

Balance at the Year End – 31 March 2021 is £0.00 in the PCP bank account.

There was a carry forward in the accounts of £1,888.22 from 2019-2020. This was split into Restricted Funds £572.50 and General Funds £1,315.72.

Receipts: During the Financial Year there was a receipt of £64.20 for insurance costs from the closure of the PCP.

Expenditure: Expenditure comprised audit fee donations for 2019-2021, insurance, website costs, room hire, archiving, graffiti protection for the Old Railway Line display boards and contributions to a range of youth projects including a 'Kinball' for the Ponteland High School, on-line activities for Girl Guiding Castleward, 4th Ponteland Brownies, Darras Hall Primary School and Tents and Bird Boxes for 1st Ponteland Scouts.

It needs to be noted that there has been significant contribution in terms of time and monies donated by Committee Members towards running the Partnership, Old Railway Line project, printing and archiving costs. We are very grateful to the Committee for their support and Ponteland Town Council.

Projects – Restricted Funds

Northumberland County Council – Old Railway Line Project

Funding was spent on graffiti protection for the display boards on the Old Railway Line. The remaining balance was used as a contribution towards the purchase of tents and activities for the 1st Ponteland Scouts because of their contribution to the Old Railway Line Project over a number of years.

Northumberland County Council Youth Service – Team Biccies

Team Biccies funding was spent on a Kinball and bladder for the High School and on Tents for Ponteland Scouts. There was a deficit of £280.28 which was funded from the General Fund.

Heather Thomas finished her report by thanking Gail Templeton for Auditing the Accounts.

AD thanked HT for her presentation of this last complex report endorsed by all.

Local Organisations Annual Reports: None.

Thanks: AD expressed her thanks to the whole committee for their support and made special mention to the Management Team for all their hard work through this difficult year. She again thanked Heather Thomas, also Shirley Hill for her dedication and too numerous to count telephone calls from AD. She also wished to thank Frank Harrington for his council and guidance during the whole 18 years of the PCP's existence. Nirmal Sehgal thanked Alma and the Management Group and all thanks were unanimously endorsed.

Please note that the 'Appendix' will be attached to the Minutes.

Address from Chairman: Although this is a sad day and technically the last day of the Community Partnership, we should reflect on the difference the Partnership has made to the community over 18 years. Things were very different in 2003 when the interim group was first established. Since then, there have been 3 distinct stages where each of these committee's have worked to give benefits to the residents and local workers.

The Local Government Act 2000 allowed for community partnerships to be formed within a partnership structure which was non political and non profit making to engage with their communities to identify activities which would benefit and add to the quality of life.

The early years were not easy, a structure had to be formed and put in place. In 2005 the PN&V was created, which could not have gone ahead without the collaboration and support of the Parish Council.

Change – 2009 Regional reorganisation, 1 unitary authority formed embracing all district councils. This change meant no admin or financial support.

In the second stage Brian Prickett developed solid relationships with other local organisations helping to raise £200.000 – including the Play and Skate Parks. 2009 – 2014 The Regeneration Scheme for Merton Way was unsuccessful due to the NCC. 2012 hosted ‘Shaping the Future’ community factual event on developer’s intentions to develop the greenbelt. This was a catalyst that created Ponteland Greenbelt Group and Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The third stage, creating a website implementing safeguarding training, a selection of policies and procedures required for 14 successful match funding applications which focused on the natural environment, community health and wellbeing youth projects. These efforts gained a number of local awards 2017, 2018, 2019 and a contribution over the years to Britain in Bloom. Also, an acknowledgement from the Duchess of Northumberland at her Garden Party in 2018 and the ongoing support from our MP for all our efforts.

A.O.B.

AD invited anyone interested in joining a final Special Meeting on 14th April via Zoom at 7 pm to let Shirley know and then they would receive an invitation.