



## TRUSTEE'S MEETING

7.00 p.m. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

held at Crawcrook Pavilion

## MINUTES

- 1) **Present:** Chris Beer, Laura Clark, Linda Chappell, Barbara Williams, Norma Blackith, Julie Gavin, Kathyne Henderson, Caroline James.
- 2) **Apologies in advance:** None.
- 3) **Did not attend:** Matthew Broderick.
- 4) **Acceptance of minutes of previous meetings held on 7 May 2025 (circulated via email).** Yes
- 5) **Financial matters:**
  - a) Finance report: (LC)

<b>Finance Report</b>	<b>Up to 31/05/25</b>				
Bank Account Balance	£ 9,952.50				
Petty Cash Balance	£ 556.15				
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£ 10,508.65</b>				
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>B/F 1.12.2024</b>	<b>Income 2024/2025</b>	<b>Spent 2024/2025</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Lights Crawcrook & Greenside	£ 2,083.76	£ 271.15	-£ 24.60	£ 2,330.31	2023 bill was £3,375 split £2,550 Crawcrook and £825 Greenside
Crawcrook Fair 2024	£ 2,098.46		-£ 200.00	£ 1,898.46	Crawcrook Fair 2024 - Money raised towards Christmas lights and other community improvements
Christmas Fair 2024 & Calendars	£ 136.00	£ 156.35	-£ 20.00	£ 272.35	Christmas Fair 2024 & Calendars - Money raised towards Christmas lights and other community improvements
Crawcrook Fair 2025		£ 320.00	-£ 21.00	£ 299.00	
Community Garden	£ 786.03	£ 16.50	-£ 235.00	£ 567.53	Donations from Thompsons of Prudhoe (£15.21 brought forward) and Denise's fundraising (£770.82 brought forward)
Easter Eggs 2025		£ 589.02	-£ 50.00	£ 539.02	Easter Egg scavenger hunt 2025
Postcode Lottery Grant - Pavilion, Fence and Green improvements	£ 2,849.83		-£ 2,523.60	£ 326.23	Postcode Lottery Grant to cover bowling green benches, lawnmower, Pavilion roller shutter refurbishment, play area fence and Pavilion seating area
Asda Community Fund	£ 800.00		-£ 541.34	£ 258.66	Asda Grassroots grant received November 2024 to cover materials to deliver subsidised arts & crafts sessions
LCF Fund 2025		£ 250.00		£ 250.00	Grant received March 2025 towards refurbishment of Pavilion toilet
Co-op Community Fund 2024/2025	£ -	£ 500.00		£ 500.00	Co-op community fund grant for Pavilion toilet facility improvements. £500 stage payment received March 2025.
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				<b>£ 7,241.56</b>	
Community Café		£ 388.20	-£ 455.23	-£ 67.03	Community Café takings and purchases
Pavilion and Green Hire Income		£ 255.95	£ -	£ 255.95	Income from hire bookings
Pavilion running expenses			-£ 86.65	-£ 86.65	Insurance, Utilities and sundries
<b>Pavilion &amp; Green subtotal</b>		<b>£ 644.15</b>	<b>-£ 541.88</b>	<b>£ 102.27</b>	
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				<b>£ 3,267.09</b>	

**Notes to financials:** Invoice for Christmas Lights now available and will go through June accounts. £250 paid out for paint for Matt's workshop with paint left over to do another workshop if necessary.

## **1) Meeting with Sam Laing and Gary Stamp from Council.**

The aim of this meeting with Sam Laing and Gary Stamp was to establish a better communication between Our Villages and Gateshead Council with regards to such things as planning permission, identifying the location of the meters for the Pavilion, putting a gate in the community garden giving access from the park, getting answers requests made from various departments. It was felt that there was no help and support from Gateshead Council with regards to these items, and obstacles, rather than solutions, were things Our Villages have to face on a regular basis.

Sam stated that he couldn't comment on previous individual decisions and departments and would need to speak to other colleagues and the relevant departments involved. Sam and Gary will arrange a further meeting with Chris to discuss these items in more detail.

Sam stated that some of the reasons for the above problems have been a lack of investment in the west of Gateshead compared to other areas in Gateshead as well as large numbers of staff turnover from the pandemic. He explained that his role within the council is to support grass root organisations that want to make a difference in their community and they are now our route and point of contact into the council with regards to getting answers. They also have good links with local funders.

## **2) Crawcrook Pavilion & Green:**

- a) A suggestion was made to open the bowling green and put out lawn games during café hours throughout summer holidays. On submitting previous planning application, it was mentioned that it would be open on a permanent basis but that there would be restrictive signs put up. However, this can't be done until it is made safer; the broken benches were taken out among other things. After discussion it was decided not to open permanently in case dog owners took their dogs in. Even if they picked up after their dogs there will still be some trace residue left which could be a safety issue for children using the green.

Another suggestion was made to open it up when the Café is open as well as using some of the funding to buy more lawn games. Whoever is running the café however will have to keep an eye on the green to check no dogs are being allowed in. The conclusion is to open it up during the school summer holidays while the café is open to see how it goes. A sign would need to be put on the bowling green fencing to inform the public that dogs are not allowed in. It was also suggested putting a 'Pavilion Café' sign on the top of the outside of the building to make more people aware of the Café.

Chris and Kathryn tidied up some of the bowling green and Steve cut the grass after comments were made on Facebook about the state of the green. It was noted that some of trees were going into the wall beside the school which will need cutting down. Chris will go on his volunteer day to do what he can to rectify this but it will probably need a group of volunteers in to help ripping out as much as they can. Getting a digger was also suggested to remove them.

Ideas for use of the green when applying for grants were:

- Getting Emmaville to tend more raised beds along the back of the green through the summer months and once cleared at end of summer we would provide black plastic coverings for the beds over the winter to stop weeds coming through. Access would be required however.
- Having a compost heap for when Steve cuts the grass, the grass can go in but it was decided to rethink this due to the possibility of rats' infestation.
- Allotment raised beds.
- Sensory areas around sides.
- Summer bouncy castles.
- Film/picnic nights with large screen. **(Action All)**.

b) Craft and chat sessions are continuing with Kathryn. **(Action KH)**.

c) Linda to put on Jewellery sessions for kids as well as a decoupage session for adults. A wildlife session was suggested and Barbara knows someone who might be interested in putting a willow weaving class on and to get in touch with her. Also, an upcycling craft session was suggested. **(Action LCH/BW)**.

d) The shed is now due to be delivered and will be erected in next couple of weeks on timber sleepers which need to be ordered. Two or three people will need to be available to help put up. **(Action CB)**.

e) The Crawcrook Food Festival is to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> October. It was suggested to put on in partnership with Brighten Ryton. If successful it could be something to put on every year with one year held in Crawcrook and the next year in Ryton. This year it will be held in Crawcrook. Becky Skoyles from Brighten Ryton is dealing with submitting event plans to the council. A site plan is also needed and will be passed on to Becky.

### 3) Review of regular activities:

a) No new updates on litter picking although people have been seen picking up litter although not connected to Our Villages. Equipment has been borrowed and not brought back. Chris to get in touch with relevant person. It was suggested to replenish some of the equipment. Barbara mentioned that she has some in her garage and will bring to Pavilion. Organising a litter picking event was suggested. Chris to advertise and try to get something sorted for a monthly litter picking session. It was suggested to meet up in one place then allocate different areas then meet up again for a coffee afterwards. **(Action CB/BW)**.

b) No updates on gardening although the Gardening Angels have been seen around Crawcrook.

c) We are low on volunteers especially in the café. Another volunteer recruitment event was suggested.

4) **Community Garden Update:** Coffee morning went OK although it was mostly the church people that went who mainly stayed in the church's refreshment area.

5) **Upcoming Events:** Crawcrook Fair meeting arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2pm. Face painter sorted. DJ is still needed. Buskers sorted. Barbara to speak to cake stall vendors. **(Action JG/BW).**

6) **A.O.B:**

- a) Concern was raised about the rate increase for the Christmas Lights and whether it will be worthwhile getting a breakdown in the future.
- b) It was noted that we need to get in early for the LCF Funding and decide what it will be used for before putting in application such as an event on the bowling green during the school summer holidays. **(Action LC).**
- c) Ideas needed for a speaker for the AGM. Sara from Peace of Mind was suggested. **(Action KH).**
- d) It was suggested changing the name of the charity as there is no interaction with Greenside who tend not to get involved with anything in Crawcrook. Julie to look into it and trustees to vote on it at the AGM meeting which will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. **(Action All).**
- e) It was noted that in order to be a trustee, some meetings must be attended. Trustees to be informed. **(Action CB).**

7) **Date and time of next meeting(s):**

- a) Next scheduled Trustees meeting – AGM Meeting Tuesday 8th July at 7pm in Crawcrook pavilion.