

**LANGDON SQUARE COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the User Group Panel**  
**January 21st 2016**

**Present:** Dave Elliott, Christine Eaton, Margaret Black, Colin Swain, Pat Swain, Denice Partington, Adele Khan, Cllr. Geoff Cole

**Apologies:** Cllr. Jan Brunton, Ian Geldard, Mike Harbisher, Mary Joyce

**1. Declaration of Interest**

Geoff Cole as an elected member of Middlesbrough Council.

**2.** Minutes of the meeting held November 19th were approved.

**3. Matters Arising**

Covered in Agenda.

**4. Finance**

Margaret reported that we had made £2,000.00 profit from takings over the year but due to been taken from our reserves.

The utilities bills of Gas & Electric are monitored to allow us the best rates and we hope that the users will use the facilities economically by switching off lights when leaving rooms etc.

Dave added that the room hire charges were to be increased by a small amount per hour from the end of March and that the information will be sent to groups at the end of this month.

**5. Caretakers**

The caretakers have continued doing a great job and are to get an hourly rate increase.

**6. Building Issues**

**Roof** - Dave reported that he had contacted yet another roofing company to look at the problem of the damp patches in the back lounge and the GP room. They were to attend later in the week.

**Decorating work** – during 2016 it is planned to re-decorate the GP room and the office. The outside wood work is to be examined and if necessary re-varnished.

**Water Boilers** – this week both water boilers in the kitchen have given up and have leaked and also it appears the thermostat on one has failed. As these boilers are quite a number of years old (the company reckon 10-14) and they are on constantly for safety of users we decided to completely replace them. Margaret has ordered some replacements at the cost of £800.00 which hopefully will arrive on Monday.

**7. Fund Raising**

A coffee morning was suggested but when?

Easter: May when the elections are held in the centre.

H. M. Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday - this was thought to be the best idea. The question then is Her official birthday or her ceremonial one?

The Trustees to liaise with the caretakers to find the best day for the Centre.

Adele said her group held themed nights periodically and would hold a raffle with the proceeds to the Centre. She said it was a possibility that perhaps some of her students could give a demonstration.

**8. Website**

Adele said that she hoped that the website would be up and running soon. The problem she had was that the old system was in a different format to that she was used to. Her friend was re-entering it so that she could keep events up-to-date easily. It was also suggested that we put the Centre on Face book which apparently is the way to go. It would also give events at the centre more publicity. Adele also said that it didn't cost anything and we could try for a period of time and if we changed our mind could take it off.

It was agreed by the Trustees present that Adele should look at putting the centre on Face Book.

**9. Any Other Business**

**User Group Meetings** - The Trustees had spoken about the user group meetings and asked the opinion of members if they thought it was of value to users.

Members agreed that the meetings were of value and that we should continue with them.

**National Trust** – Denice said that her group usually parked at the Blue Bell hotel when they went on bus trips but they could no longer do this. She asked if they could be left in the car park at Langdon Square. The car park furthest away from the building was the council's and members could see no problem with parking there. They are reminded that cars are parked at the owner's risk.

**Denice was asked to remind her group that the exit door in the back lounge, as in all other rooms, must be left accessible as it was an emergency exit.**

**Hall Curtains** – The door curtains have been altered and re-hung. Thanks go to Barbara Ford for the alterations Paul Kane for the loan of ladders and John Black for hanging them.

**Date of next User Group meeting March 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 6.00 p.m.**

