

Hallbankgate Hub

Minutes of Management Committee meeting Monday 18 May 2015

Lacy Thompson Hall 7.00pm

Those Present: Rose Foster, Janet Lambert, Duncan Sperry, Edna Eagleton, Steve Bowles

1. Apologies: Robin Murray, John Foster, Sue Consterdine, Linda Harmer-Jones

2. Minutes of the last meeting (11th May). These were confirmed with one minor alteration.

3. Matters arising

We are still waiting for a report from Lee Murray on repair priorities.

Contacts for volunteers – as soon as we know we've got a shop we should contact potential volunteers

Mobile shop – Mal isn't well enough to give us any more trading figures

Press release – this was printed along with a response from Scotmid. Figures had been omitted which somewhat reduced the impact.

4. Treasurers report No change since last meeting.

5. Presentation by Karen Bragg from Post Office local

Karen outlined the main options – either a hosted service (2 hours per week) or a post office local till which PO would install. Karen confirmed the standard line that this would need to be open all the hours the shop was open because PO will have invested heavily to install it. (ca. £10,000). Also, a named person would be responsible. However, she noted the details we provided of examples where this was not the case and agreed to ask her contracts manager about this. Our need for flexibility was stressed if the project is to work. Because of our location and remoteness we would qualify for PO local Plus, which offers more services such as transcash.. Significant training would be given. There would be a 3-4 month get-in time from application to the system being live.

6. Presentation by Michael Bauer (Cumbria employment solicitors)

Michael had produced a document outlining his perception of our main needs including TUPE. His firm charges £120 per hour when engaged in specific tasks. There are two solicitors plus support staff. They do not charge for short telephone questions etc. They have a bank of contracts and policies which could be easily adapted to our needs. With regard to TUPE he was overall optimistic that this would not be a major problem and when we know if we are going to purchase the store he would be able to be more specific. He compared his service with that of Peninsula. They generally filed enquiries with non-legally qualified staff. Michael would also be able to put us in touch with an insurance broker regarding director's liability and legal expenses cover.

Following Michael's departure it was agreed unanimously that his service was preferable to Peninsula and that we should use his company when the time comes.

7. Business plan progress.

Duncan has been working on figures with Robin – a slightly revised version has emerged which Duncan talked though. This will now be used to support the bid for *Power to Change* funding.

8. Fundraising progress

- a. Application to *Power to Change*: This has not yet been submitted as the business plan was still being worked on. Will be submitted this week.
- b. Just giving. We are not a charity so not eligible
- c. Esme Fairbairn – Duncan will investigate
- d. Share prospectus – when we issue this it can be distributed widely so may act in a similar way to crowd funding.

9. Bid to Scotmid – progress.

The need for a formal – and final – bid to Scotmid was recognised. The business plan supports a bid of £35k but not any higher. Duncan proposed, seconded by Janet, that this is the bid we make. This was agreed unanimously.

10. Alternative premises

Rose had done some further research but at the present state of play we need to know where we are with the Co-op premises – we don't have enough resources to be split.

11. AOB None

12. Date of next meeting Monday 1st June at 7.30pm.

Meeting ended at 9.35pm