

Barrow Community Association

Minutes of ZOOM meeting of BUSCA trustees on Thursday 15th October 2020 at 1.00pm

1. Apologies

Craig Johnstone, Helen Sadler, Ann Higgins

Present: Nick, Ted, Sue, Brian, Nicola, Chris, Lin, Ceri, Val, Frances, Mike, Ginnie, Diane B, Steve, David, Judith

2. Minutes of meeting held Feb 11th 2020

Accepted

3. Record of decisions made since Feb 2020 (by email) and reports of BUSCA activities

Circulated

4. Matters arising from 2 and 3

a. Brian to look into current position of library insurance

b. P.C. Has now completed its questionnaire and the research has been analysed. Ginnie referred to the expectation of a meeting with the P.C. which never happened and appears to show that they reneged on their original agreement to meet with Astbury Planning and Busca

5. Financial Report

Circulated

a. Barrow Voice as yet hasn't been presented with a bill for the final Sept edition, the expectation is that there will be a deficit of @ £1500 but the contingency stands at £2500

The questionnaire in Barrow Voice received small amount of feedback mostly from older people who would prefer a paper edition rather than online

David asked if Trustees were happy to support BV on an edition by edition basis and they agreed

b. Scarecrow festival was enjoyed by many and was very successful. It made a profit which was split equally between Busca and Rainbows - £229 each. Thanks to Nicola and her team.

c. Bar closed down now and it made a smaller than expected loss. There is stock which can be used as and when appropriate.

d. Library has a healthy account, funded through grants. There is no hiring at the moment, therefore no income, however the wages and the utilities still have to be paid. It is planned to spend some grant monies on masks, gloves, sanitiser and screens and to replace two I-pads. Dust sheets have been bought to cover the shelves when hiring recommences.

e. BATS Steven reported that the £500 deposit for Legally Blonde had been recovered. The sound desk has been repaired and a new microphone has been bought. Humpty Dumpty made a small profit.

He wished for Helen to be commended for all her efforts to get the Murder

Mystery performed. This is postponed for the moment.
Humphrey Perkins currently not allowed to hire out any space.
f. Twinning. There has been little movement of funds

6. Report from the BUSCA Strategic subcommittee (David, Judith, Frances, Ceri):
discussion and decisions re sustainability moves
Circulated.

Findings show main threat to Busca to replace David, then to a lesser degree, Judith.

Busca could be reduced down by certain groups becoming separate charities. David has produced a list of what this entails which was emailed to all trustees.

An alternative would be for the Library to have its own treasurer. That would leave the BUSCA treasurer only having to deal with the finances of Barrow Voice, Events team and a small amount for Heritage and website administrators.

There followed much discussion with the general feeling that the Library could be asked to move to be a separate charity. This would protect the library from the situation where BUSCA couldn't continue to exist. Brian was happy to ask the Library Management Committee to consider becoming independent and/or to advertise for a treasurer.

Judith suggested that BATS and Twinning subgroups are also invited to have a discussion on becoming independent charities and Frances asked that we await responses from those groups before making any moves.

7. Need to hold an AGM

Currently there are over 50 paid up members. Mike proposed an AGM on Zoom. Voted and all in favour. Nick is going to email individual trustees who haven't renewed to remind them to pay their subs.

8. Appointment of trustees and officers.

At past AGMs we have always voted for officers then trustees however the correct procedure is for members to elect trustees first at the AGM. Then trustees vote for the officers at a subsequent trustees' meeting.

Frances proposed we follow correct procedure at the AGM; all in favour. Judith is to email individual trustees to see if they wish to be re-elected as trustees and will phone if she has no response by email. Nicola is to invite the Scarecrow team to attend the AGM. It will be held on Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7pm

9. Procedures for new Events team.

Busca subgroups have always presented their planned events in the Forward Plan and budget of the Annual Report which has then gone to trustees for approval. This hasn't been possible with the new Events team.

We need to agree a procedure for the period before the next Annual Report is prepared.
Alternatives:

- a. the new Events team could be asked to predict their budget
- b. trustees could authorise a spend of £250 per event
- c. three trustees could be authorised to approve spends.

Lin proposed they have a budget of £250 per event with authorisation needed for requests for larger spend. 2nd by Ginnie, all in favour.

Currently the Events team are planning Christmas events to run for the whole of December. Santa postbox in Freckles, letter packs to purchase @£1. Decorate a bauble and decorate your windows, streets, business. All will be advertised in BV. David proposed retrospective approval for payment of £500 to buy letter packs. 2nd Lin, all agreed.

10. The future of the Community Building project and the money in its account.

A long discussion took place with Ted recapping the situation since the P.C. resolved not to meet with Busca. He feels the P.C. behaved in an appalling way and it needs to be followed up. Judith didn't think there was any mileage in pursuing this. The P.C. itself is now seriously looking at trying to find a way forward to provide a Community Hub.

Ginnie agreed with Ted but felt it was no good pursuing it. David felt it would be flogging a dead horse! Lin felt the P.C. needed to look at itself and do what the majority of village wants. Frances agreed with Lin. Ted felt we deserve answers to questions and proposed that Busca write to P.C. expressing disappointment in their decision and ask for a meeting to hear their reasons. 2nd by Sue. Lin proposed an amendment that Busca just write to express concern but not to ask for meeting. Votes 4 for, 7 against, 5 abstentions, amendment not carried. Ted's proposal: votes 3 for, 11 against 2 abstentions, not carried. Judith suggested that Busca has three options for the £13,000 held in the Hub account

- a. Regenerate the Hub effort
- b. Absorb the money into the Library development fund
- c. Transfer the money into the Busca general account

Ginnie would rule out a. as she felt she couldn't possibly work with P.C. again. Mike objected to a. and c. so would opt for the Library option. Ted couldn't agree to the Library option.

David proposed a fourth option of leaving the money where it is for future possibilities. Votes: 15 for, 1 against, carried.

11. Insurance enquiry from Twinning Association.

Letter from the Twinning Association explained that the method of calculating the proportions of the insurance between the various subgroups doesn't reflect the reality of money movement in the Twinning Association. David proposed that the trustees agree to their request and lower the proportion to a figure which is very much closer to the amount they paid last year. Seconded and approved unanimously. David will contact the Twinning Association.

12. AOB

Ceri proposed that Busca should repay Judith and David for the cost of the ProZoom programme- approx £140 as it will be of great benefit to all groups. David wished for the

trustees to be aware that the system will be available for their personal use and therefore they would obtain personal benefit from the arrangement. This was acknowledged by the trustees. All in favour apart from Judith and David who abstained. Steven suggested that as we are not collecting any subs from Youth theatre or panto it may be possible to claim some money from the Government support for the Arts package. He will investigate.

Sue wished for Nicola to be thanked for all her efforts and to keep up the good work.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7pm followed by trustees meeting