**Newington Big Local - Minutes of Meeting**

**at Newington Community Centre**

**On Monday 16th November 2015 10.30am**

**Attending:**

Richard Nicholson – Interim Chairperson

Steph Todd – Chairperson (Currently on temporary leave from position)

Marie Thomas – Secretary

Cara Thorpe – Community Development Officer

Charlie Fox – L.T.O

Carl Adams – Local Trust

Shola – St Christophers Church

Debbie Day – Academy Fm Thanet

Bob Mower – Academy Fm Thanet

Keven Gabriel – N.B.L Gardener

Sandra Sudds – Resident/Volunteer

Keith Wharmby – Resident

Sam Voak – Resident/Volunteer

Richard Barnard – Porchlight

Tammy Sains – Resident/Volunteer

Andrew – Resident/Volunteer

**Apologies:**

Sandra Herring – Resident/Volunteer

Caroline Pinchbeck

Liam Clarke – N.B.L Apprentice

Hannah Todd – Newington Little Local/N.B.L Ambassador

Norma Kelly – Resident/Volunteer

***~ Minutes of last Meeting agreed***

**Chairperson Update:** Richard gave us a brief update of what he has been doing so far in his position as Acting Chairperson, including a number of Meetings with Steph, Cara, Carl & Charlie.

**Academy Fm:** Academy Fm has recently submitted a funding bid to us, for a sum of up to £5,000. Bob Mower and Debbie Day explained further the issues they are facing with the current financial situation of Academy Fm, which is the reason why they are having to seek funding and explained the service that they could offer us. – The offer of a Community Magazine being created has had to be withdrawn from the package.

**Q:** £5,000 being a large sum of money could it be a possibility that we break it down into instalments?

**A:** That could be a possibility. – Debbie re-affirmed that they are 150% committed to promoting everything that we do.

- noted that the timeline that the bid is for is from September 2015 to September 2016.

**Q:** They were asked to explain their budget plan for next year.

**A:** They are continually looking and applying for funds from various places, are currently relying on donations & grants and currently have no financial backing from the school. They are encouraging local businesses to support them, plus Ofcom have now allowed them to receive some monies from paid advertising.

**Q:** would our contribution be seen as paid advertising?

**A:** No it wouldn’t.

Academy Fm carried out a survey of their listenership recently and the result has shown that they are currently on par with KMFM.

Debbie & Bob were thanked for attending the Meeting and then left. We then discussed the bid further. A suggestion was made that we offer biannual instalments of £1,250 for 3 years, with a written agreement between both parties and a review after 6 months. As Steph is a Board Member for Academy Fm she can keep an eye on their finances. – This proposal was agreed and Cara is to inform them.

**Marketing:** Our Website is to be up and running soon at a cost of £107 for the site and one year hosting. Mike suggested that he could’ve designed and set up a site instead – He will be considered should it be needed in the future.

A number of Marketing items we could consider were discussed and it was explained further about the idea for fridge magnet calendars that we are to use to give out to local residents.

After discussion, the figure of £4,000 to be used for Newington Big Local Marketing was proposed and agreed.

**Credit Union:**. Sam explained that she feels there are a number of issues with the way this is currently running and so now feels that she no longer wants to manage the Credit Union.

The importance of the Credit Union remaining open, particularly as this is the most important time in the year for people potentially needing the help it provides was discussed.

Sam is happy to remain a volunteer, but doesn’t feel like she can continue with the responsibility of managing it. Richard, as Chairperson, thanked Sam for all that she has done with this to date. A Meeting will be arranged with Kent Savers, to get some guidance and support with moving the future of the Credit Union forward.

**Newington Little Local:** A Meeting was held on the 9th November with Little Local, at which they put forward an idea that they would like to run with for Newington Youth. They would like to arrange 2 art focussed competitions, which would be open to 11 – 19yr olds. (It’s suggested this age range be split into 2 groups). This will involve Painting, Drawing & Photography Themes. The artists they/we have already been working with, who are Nova & Philippe, are to be asked to be judges, as well as possibly Kathy Bailes (Gazette). Hannah has been working hard to plan this and has successfully secured some freebies for some of the prizes. The artwork that is created will be displayed at an exhibition at the Library and/or Newington Community Centre, as well as possibly at the Turner Gallery. The amount they are asking for to fund this project is a maximum of £1,100. This proposal was agreed.

**Community Development Officer Update:** Cara explained that Unltd have been in Newington last week, to talk to local people about how to set up Social Enterprises. Cara has also been busy working on our Annual review, the results of which will be discussed at our December Meeting. We were all asked to please make sure we had completed our own review forms before we left the Meeting. Cara has also of course been working hard continuing to guide and support Liam as her Apprentice. Richard, as Chairperson, thanked Cara for her work so far.

**Secret Garden:** Sandra Herring was due to give an update, but was unable to attend due to health reasons, so this will be moved to the Agenda for our December Meeting.

**Events:-** Bestfest: This was a really well attended, fantastic event for Newington, with so many things to see and do through the local area. One point was raised that next year it would work better at the time of year that it was originally planned for, which was in the summer. The date it fell on this year, was the same week that we then had our Halloween Events and as several members were involved with those as well as BestFest, it meant we were pushed for time to achieve what was planned.

Halloween Disco Party: This was our next success, which other than one of the games being abandoned due to not working as well as it should, all went to plan and was a huge success. This was enjoyed by around 200 attendees.

Zombie Walk & Halloween at the Copse: Although we had a last minute technical hitch with the music, The Zombie Walk was well attended and enjoyed by many. A nice point was raised regarding much appreciated support from some local ladies, who when they noticed our lack of volume with the music, then proceeded to sing the song for us!

This was followed by the Halloween at The Copse, for which we think around 200 people attended. We had chocolate apples, as well as some delicious soup being served up to all who visited and it was nice to note that a couple of people enjoyed the event that much that they made donations to The Copse. Richard, as Chairperson, thanked Simon and everyone else who was involved in organising these events.

Christmas Event at Community Centre: This is on the 12th December. Set up is from just after 12 mid-day and the event will be from 4.30pm until 6.30pm. The event will involve various games, etc, including Hook-a-bauble, guess the name of the Snowman (including Olaf’s babies), a Christmas tree to be decorated by the Community, Santa and his helpers will be attending, there will also be raffles and refreshments. Those attending will be given a stamp card, for which they will get a stamp for each game/activity they participate in and once completed will be exchanged for a small gift.

Cara is to obtain the funds for this event this week.

Community Centre decorating: The Community Centre is to be decorated for Christmas on the 4th December. If anyone is able to come and help, please pop in anytime from 10.30am onwards.

Christmas at The Copse: Steph is arranging for a Horse and carriage to bring Santa through Newington, leading to the Copse. Mrs Claus will once again be visiting the event to give out a small gift to any children who visit, there will also be carol/Christmas song singing around the Christmas tree. – The tree is being donated by Doyles and is due to be delivered on 1st December. The date for this event is 19th December and the time is soon to be confirmed.

N.B.L Partnership Christmas celebration: This will be at 6.30pm on 18th December at Newington Community Centre. It is planned that we will have a fish and chip supper. Cara will e-mail out the menu for you to place your order, the closing date for orders will be the day of our next meeting. You are welcome to provide your own alcohol if you wish.

Secret Santa: It has been agreed that we will once again be running a secret Santa, the draw for which will be made on 7th December and then the gifts will be given on 18th December at our Partnership Christmas Celebration.

**A.O.B:**- Generator: It was proposed that we purchase a new generator, which can then be used for events, etc. A question was raised over its insurance status and we were informed that it would indeed be covered and would always be returned to the security of the container at night.

N.B.L Logo: Options for the N.B.L Logo to either be changed or enhanced were discussed, as it has been noted that when the current one is used in smaller format, it isn’t clear enough. – This is to be looked into further. It was also suggested that maybe Canterbury Christ Church University could be approached to see if they could work on it as a project for us.

Agenda: We were reminded that anybody who would like an item included in the next Meeting Agenda needs to inform our Chairperson, Community Development Officer or Secretary as soon as possible.

**Meeting closed.**

**Next Meeting is Monday 7th December 10.30am**

**at Newington Community Centre.**