

Newcastle Community Centre exists to encourage, promote, coordinate, participate and assist in the environmental and cultural development, and education of the people of Newcastle and its environs.

Newcastle Community Centre	
Minutes of AGM	
Date:	23 rd Oct 2023
Time:	19.30 hrs
Venue:	Newcastle Community Centre

Chairperson:	Jane Smith
Present	Craig Holmes, Michael Woodnutt, Philip Mc Galey, R. Styles, Hugh O Rourke, D. James, M. Carey, T. Bond, Miriam Johnston & Mary Woodnutt
Quorum:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
In Attendance (Others):	
Apologies:	Ben Doyle & N. Becton.

Opening of Meeting.
Jane Smith thanked all the participants for attending the meeting. Jane also expressed sympathy of all to the Carey family on the recent death of Pat Carey. Pat was a former chairperson of Newcastle Community Centre and did trojan work in the Community over the years. He was a mainstay of the Tidy Towns and the NCC. A minute's silence was observed.
Minutes of last AGM
The minutes of the 2022 AGM were taken as read as they were sent out with the notification of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as accurate, proposed by Philip Mc Galey, and seconded by Diana Stringer.
Treasurers Report
The Centre earned a small profit of €106.00 in 2022 which compares with a loss of over €10,000 in previous year. 2022 was a return to normality following previous two Covid years. It also demonstrated prudent control of the board of financial matters. Income for the year was which 31,743,00.

This was made up of
Hire of Centre €10,517.00
Fundraising €4000.00
Donations €1000.00

The balance was made up of amortisation of grants which were received from Wicklow Co. Council and Capital Sports Grant for disability toilet, dressing rooms and showers in 2018, 2019 and 2020. The grants are amortised over 5 years and depreciation of the facilities. NCC expressed gratitude to WCC and Sports Capital Grants and Anderson Interiors.

The balance in the account at year end is €32,000 due to outstanding payments for work to be completed in the Centre.

The objective of maintaining a revenue and expenditure balance of €8,000.00 in the account is being achieved.

Expenditure was maintained except for cost for light heat and power has doubled this year.

The finances of the Centre are sound, and the assets of the Centre are €104,000 made of building and fittings of the Centre. Hugh also encouraged all to attend fundraising events.

Jane Smith thanked Hugh for the clarity of his report at this meeting and meetings during the year. A treasure of a treasurer.

The minutes were approved. Proposed by Michael Woodnutt and seconded by Mary Woodnutt

Chairpersons Report

This year's committee are:

Jane Smith - Chairperson

Mary Woodnutt – Company Secretary

Hugh O'Rourke – Treasurer

Directors/Trustees: Niamh Becton, Diana James, and Ben Doyle.

Committee Member: Craig Holmes

I thank these dedicated people for their work for the Centre throughout the year and the support they continue to give me as Chairperson.

This has overall been a good year, most of our clubs and groups are back using the Centre, with a few additional groups. We are delighted to welcome the AA group on a Friday evening and the bowling group on a Monday and Thursday evening. The coffee morning group are now meeting on a Thursday morning, many thanks to Mary Woodnutt and Diana James for getting this going again. Unfortunately, the Baby & Toddler playgroup that meets each Friday morning for an hour is no longer running, if anyone is interested in volunteering to run it, please let me know. The Centre is very busy at the weekends, the North Wicklow Country Market is each Saturday morning and then on most weekends we have birthday parties booked in. These parties are a major source of income and greatly assist with the overall expense of maintaining the Centre. We had a Wedding in June, there are great photographs of it on our website, they did a wonderful job decorating the main hall, worth having a look at. The revenue from rents to date is more than €10,000, this figure is based on 9 months, so we

estimate that the end of year figure will be approximately €13,000 which will be up by €3,000 on last year.

Compliance

As we said last year, we are fully compliant with the revised Charities Governance Code published by The Charities Regulator in November 2018. This sets out the standards that need to be met to effectively manage and control the Centre. Miriam Johnston continues to support the compliance subgroup to maintain our legal, regulatory, and ethical integrity and to ensure our ongoing compliance with the Charities Governance Code and an end-to-end review of internal policies and procedures.

Communications

Our website <https://newcastlecommunitycentrewicklow.ie> is a very good source of information and many thanks to Julian Plant for maintaining it for us. Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/newcastlewicklow/> which is linked to our website has up to date information of events/activities happening in the Centre. There is also the village forum WhatsApp set up recently which will mean that it is going to be easier to communicate activities/events that are being held in the community.

Training

Jane Smith attended a Webinar online run by the Charities Regulator on filing the Annual Report. This is a requirement for every charity to file within 10 months of the annual accounts, our deadline is 31st October 2023.

Grants

As part of the Community Enhancement Fund, we have received €1000 this year, this was for the upgrading of our CCTV system. We thank Greystones Municipal District WCC for their continued support. We received the Age & Opportunity grant of €340.00. The major grant that we received was the Community Investment Fund/Pobal of €60,562, €36,336.96 has been drawn down for the completion of the refurbishment of the toilet facilities, the balance will be for other projects, the main one being the upgrading of the kitchen.

Donations

We have been given a donation in principle of €25,000 towards the modernizing of the outside of the Centre and repair of the roof. The roof repairs were completed at the beginning of this month, and we have been assured that it is now watertight.

Refurbishing Work

The project for the refurbishment of the toilet facilities is in its completion stage, the ramp and access by the new side door will be completed this month, the project has been funded by the Capital Sports Grant awarded to us in 2020 and the Community Investment Fund/Pobal grant awarded in December 2022. The CCTV cameras have been upgraded by Safeguard and the roof of the Centre repaired by TJ Garahy Ltd.

Fundraising/Community Week

Craft Fair: On the 4th of December we held our annual Craft Fair with Santa Claus for the children. It had a lovely Christmas atmosphere and was enjoyed by all who supported it. Many thanks to John Latchford for being our wonderful Santa yet again and to Peter Lang for ferrying him to the Centre on his tractor, it brought in approximately €745.00.

Community Week:

We had a very successful community week in August, it started with a Tennis tournament and barbeque on the Saturday, Michael Woodnutt organized the Tennis and Sarah & Marty O’Gara managed the barbeque, on the Sunday the Heritage walk was guided by Dominic Byrne and Ivonne Whittey from Wicklow CC and the talk on the Story of Newcastle from a Historical and Archaeological perspective was given by Chris Corlett and Dr. Paul Nassens, the result of the digital survey of the castle grounds was shown and that there is evidence of a village at the castle. During the week Niamh Becton and Vanessa Daly ran a Summer Camp for the children in the Centre, the Wednesday evening was social dancing night and on the Thursday night we held Bingo, thanks to Philip McGaley for doing a really good job as the caller. The nature walk on the Friday evening with Professor Jenny McElwaine was very interesting, she showed us 4 plants down on the seashore that are very rare and only grow in special conditions. The idea of the week was that it was to be community based not a major fundraising event, but it did raise approximately €1,000.00 which was a bonus.

Community Scheme Employees

William Power and John Daly are still with us thankfully, they share their duties of maintenance, cleaning, and care of the outside and grass cutting. John also helps at the weekends to facilitate the bookings for parties, opening and closing the Centre.

Volunteers

We continue to promote the benefit of being a volunteer for the Centre, we welcome this year Vanessa Daly, Sarah and Marty O’Gara who have given their time to supporting the Centre. It is so important to the running of events etc., to have the support from members of the community.

Survey

A recent online survey was conducted by the Village Forum, the results were interesting, 81 people completed it, communications was high on the feedback and as a result there is now a community WhatsApp for sending out information on events etc., in the village. Also, a high number of people said that they would be willing to contribute to the Centre financially.

Plan to 2023/2024

Our two main projects will be the upgrading of the kitchen and the modernizing of the outside of the Centre. Having the roof repaired so that it is no longer leaking means that we can now look at the outside of the Centre and what we need to do to give it a “facelift.” The main hall also needs to be painted, this could be a community day when we ask everyone who is interested to come along and give a hand. As a result of the recent survey, we will be discussing how we would manage a monetary contribution from the community. Increasing our volunteers is

still high on our agenda. We have several roles where we are looking for additional support, for example, helping or managing events, marketing, fundraising, assistance in areas of painting, diy, carpentry, planning cultural events and outings, book club, supervising/organising juniors, landscaping, community gardening, communications. You can decide how much time you can commit to volunteering and in which area you might have an interest. In return you get the opportunity to get involved and make a difference in your community, help others, make new friends, be informed on local matters and gain work experience. If you are interested and want to discuss what is involved, contact Diana James on 086 8325711 for a chat.

Village Forum

The Village Forum meets on the 2nd Monday each month in the Centre at 20.00hrs. It started very well with clubs and groups attending but now needs more support, it is a very valuable means of keeping up with village activities, what grants are available, what is happening with planning in the area and sharing of information.

Again, I thank everyone who has supported the Centre during the year, please make a note in your diary for our Christmas Fair on Sunday 3rd December, with Santa Claus for the children and our Bingo night on Saturday 9th December.

Election of Officers.

According to the constitution, a third of the committee need to step down and can be available for election. This year Ben Doyle has resigned after being on the committee since 2017 and will step down. Ben will be available as a volunteer. There are three nominations for new members of the committee.

Philip was proposed as a director by Jane Smith, seconded by Craig Holmes
Craig Holmes was proposed by Philip Mc Galey and seconded by Michael Woodnutt

Michael Woodnutt was proposed by Miriam Johnston and seconded by Diana James.

Jane Smith is delighted to welcome the new members of the Committee.

AOB

T. Bond suggested on energy costs that attention should be given to solar panels. To date this has not been looked at as it was believed that there was asbestos tiles on the roof. It has now been confirmed that the tiles on the roof are not asbestos which is great news. Jane asked if there were any ideas on how to move forward on collecting contributions from residents. The question was raised in the recent survey and got a high response. It was suggested that a contribution could be combined with people becoming a member of the Centre. PmcGaley to look at getting a price for direct marketing of a letter. Welcome letter sent to resident of Chancel Way was well received. M. Carey suggested that knocking on doors is very effective way of letting people know what is happening in the village as a lot of people cannot use modern method of communications. R. Styles suggested that perhaps a more personal approach should be made. Perhaps hold an event/open day and suggest that people gift money rather than setting a fee. PMcG suggested setting up a fundraising committee to progress. The matter will

be discussed at the committees strategic meeting in January. Perhaps the subgroup could bring some ideas to the strategy meeting. The appearance of the centre was also discussed. P.mcG suggested that a competition be held on ideas on how to improve the appearance of the Centre.
The meeting was concluded.