

Maghera Community Group Committee - Minutes for Meeting

Date /Time/Place 30 September 2021 / 6.30pm / St Joseph's PS

Attendees;

Mick, Matt, Neil, Karen,

(Nicholas McCrickard, Heather Holland - Rural Community Network)

Items discussed:

- Need to establish charitable status?
- How to achieve charitable status?
- Do Council have to co-opt ground?

Nicholas suggested other charities to make contact with;

- Sustrans
- Groundworks
- Live Here Love Here
- Lottery Awards for All

Priorities

- Form community association with basic constitution
- Organise a bank account with 2 required signatories
- Arrange Public Liability Insurance

No Immediate need to establish charitable status

Also advised for group to apply for membership of County Down Network

Nicholas agreed to look over any applications for grants and assist with applications

Nicholas also advised his organisation is potentially able to cover the costs a defibrillator course should this prove required.

Heather explained that we don't need to be a charity to access community grants

We would need to organise a bank account as soon as possible

Draw up an agreed constitution and ensure sign off at a community group meeting.

Neil agreed to locate the necessary paperwork to organise the constitution (generic charter available online)

Neil also suggested the group considers the possibility of putting up a Christmas tree in the village

Matt & Mick have been chasing up the councillors regarding work that still requires doing in the village. Matt has also attended an interagency meeting via zoom to raise some of these issues. It's frustratingly slow progress but Alan Lewis replied to Matt to let him know the village will be getting the gutters cleaned out in October. Mick has requested again that the road sweeper visit the village before this happens as has Matt. We will keep trying.

Hopefully over the next month a questionnaire will be rolled out across the village to see where the main areas of concern are in respect of all the residents. This should enable us to hopefully put more pressure on local authorities as we will be able to prove that we have the backing of the community.

Email: magheracommunitygroup@outlook.com

Phone: 07517687020