

Rhondda Community Business Initiatives Ltd.

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held at 2 pm on Thursday, 5th Dec. 2007

Present: Neal Hammond, Wyndham King (Chair), Mal Brewer, Mike Chapman, Dai Williams, Brian McGrath.

Apologies: June Abbott, Gerda Beckers, Pauline Worman, Kerry Davies, Em Jenkins

1. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 15/11/07, were accepted as a true record.
2. Matters arising: (a) Pentre Park. In Em's absence Neal reported that the schools involved in the Pentre Park development had visited a multi-purpose outdoor sports facility in Merthyr. (b) The contract with British Gas Services in respect of our two gas boilers has been renewed, and a servicing inspection is due in the near future
3. Correspondence. Neal drew attention to various items of correspondence with: Barclays local business manager re location of our deeds bank mandate, etc; Dave Carol Phillips re Welsh film societies; Phil Cope re St. Peters; Francine Phillips (RCT) re heritage walks; Geraldine Delaney re Building Preservation Trust; Peter Mortimer (RCT) re successful Welsh Church Acts Fund application; Landsearch re property register; Judith Stone (WCVA) re WEFO project ideas; XOServe re gas connections. There was also an Email from Karen Shaw in Canada (family connection with Upper Rhondda) requesting information about Wyndham King and Pauline Worman. Neal was authorised to reply on their behalf.
4. Finance. Neal reported that we were still having financial difficulties, which were exacerbated by the long transition from Objective 1 funding to the Convergence Fund, which would be fully reported in the next item on the Agenda. It was Neal's opinion that we now needed to develop an alternative funding strategy.
5. Report on meeting with Esther Hopkins (WEFO). Neal and Wyndham had met Esther and other WEFO representatives about future funding procedures. They both felt that the procedures were still uncertain, and that application procedures raised more questions than answers at this stage. There was no completion in sight, however what was sure was that the Convergence Fund would be operated in a very different way to Objective 1. It had been suggested that we contact WCVA to draw attention to our project idea and investigate the possibilities of working together. Neal and Wyndham agreed that it looked as if some sort of tendering process would emerge in due course. Neal has contacted WCVA and has received a reply, but as they still seem to be finalising their proposal at a national level, we await further clarification.
6. Preparing an alternative strategy. Neal felt that RCDA's role in an overall funding strategy needs to be strengthened, and that the possibility of a loan using the building as security should be considered. There is also a need to

review our budgeting systems and create realistic new business plans. After a long discussion, Neal was asked to produce new business plans before the next meeting, when a decision will be made about a loan application on behalf of RCDA.

7. Other Reports. Mike gave a progress report about the Bingo proposals. Pauline is waiting for the outcome of her grant application.

The meeting was closed at 3.45 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, 17th January 2008 at 2 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes
3. Matters Arising
4. Phoenix Centre Business Plan
5. June's Resignation and possible replacements
6. Any Other Business

N.B. This meeting will incorporate RCBI, RCDA and Pentre & District Building Preservation Trust.