Cwmni Cymunedol Cletwr

Minutes of Board meeting 2.03.23

Present: Cath Lloyd Williams (Chair), Barry Wise (Treasurer), Chloe Birds (Business Manager), Helen Ovens, Cindy Harris, Rose Phillips (Secretary), Kim Holland (Staff representative) Jane Nicholls; Ant Jarrett and Derval Casey via zoom

Minutes of meeting of 12.01.23 accepted. Welcome to new Director.

Matters Arising

a. Ten year celebration – various grants being sought; Cronfa Eleri bid successful, 4k awarded for digital story telling workshop, to be run by Events Organiser with support from Dysgu Bro. Bids to Ceredigion Council and Community councils in process. Ceulanamaesmawr has refused, no replies from Borth and Ysgubor y Coed to date. Awards for All (National Lottery) revising application for retry. Other suggestions of local business social funds to be followed up.

Building

a. Electricity use has been checked on a logger, results show main load confirmed as fridges and freezers. Discussed which fridges can be switched off and consideration to be given to greater use of microwave/ gas for cooking. The gas is in the process of being monitored. Thanks to those involved for their time on this.
b. Staff reported that keeping shop door closed was not always easy as customers left open. Agreed to inform volunteers/ community of rationale and hope that would help compliance.

Finance

a. Report circulated, some good news re the VAT, there has been an overpayment of about 2.5k so we should be due some refund – thanks to the Treasurer for spotting this. The energy bill relief scheme has cut our costs more than predicted. The overall effect of these is that we will now be in hand at the bank. Our costs are being tightly controlled, we have reduced electricity use, staff leaving we will not replace yet and spread of invoice payments all contribute to keeping us on an even keel. Our sales are reasonable but they do need to be higher to create the buffer we will need for next winter.
b. TBC: increased café costs, the deals offered have been worthwhile but we need to increase volume to be able to pay increased wages in the next financial year. Wages to be considered at next meeting.

Operational matters

a. Events – full varied programme noted, and flyers sent out to Talybont school well received. Agreed Director(s) must sign any bids for funding.

b. Discussed charging for Caban space as pre covid, to revisit marketing cwtch and caban space.
c. Staffing matters discussed. Agreed Board is very supportive of the culture of staff responsibility and autonomy that BM is setting.

Landscaping

a. Garden group have reinstated plant stand, which functions well and is a point of interest. The bed in front of the café has been cleared and ready for planting. Pollinator web pages now live – thanks to those involved. We have another potential volunteer for the group. Feedback from customers always positive.

Comms/ Publicity

a. Feedback from the Open evening – cost cutting suggestions useful and implemented. We are reviewing insurance policies, staff proofreading each others' orders where feasible as check, strategies to increase footfall considered.
b. Email will go to volunteers to keep them informed.

AOB

Jane Whittaker's application to the Board was accepted and she was confirmed as a member of the Board.

Dates

Next meeting 27th April 23.