



NEWMARKET - ON - FERGUS COMMUNITY CENTER CLG

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BALLYCAR ROAD, NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS, CO. CLARE

Bookings and General Enquiries; 087 7761882.

Website www.newmarketonferguscommunityhall.ie

Annual General Meeting 2019

Reporting on the business of year ending December 2018



The Cora Chaitlín Monument Newmarket-on-Fergus

Volunteering Builds Communities

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

2018 was another busy year for the community centre. In February we had the official launch of our website. This is a great asset to the community centre.

February was also the month we welcomed two new board members, Frances Quinn and Manus O'Donnell. In April Ashling Halpin joined the board and Frank Donnellan joined us in September.

We spent the summer working on the governance code. Thanks to all the board members who worked on this especially Edwin who kept us focused.

Repair to this old building is always top of our agenda and this year the wall in the squash court was the priority at a cost of €17, 300. Our priority for next year is the refurbishment of the toilets and thanks to Ger Fahy for all his hard work applying for and following up on the grant applications we will get there.

It is great to see so much activity nightly in the hall. The return of badminton is another great achievement. Bingo continues to be our main source of funding, thanks to Geraldine, Ger, Manus and all the volunteers for their ongoing commitment. This year our board has gone from strength to strength with 4 new members.

Thanks to all for your continued commitment.

Margaret Kennelly
Chairperson

Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre CLG Annual General Meeting 22nd November 2018

Reviewing the business of 2017

In attendance – Margaret Kennelly - Chairperson, Edwin Bailey – Secretary, Ger Fahy -Finance, Geraldine Hansbury - Director, Frances Quin - Director, Manus O'Donnell - Director, Aisling Halpin - Director, Frank Donellan - Director.

Apologies: Fiona O'Brien Maxwell - Director, Tommy Sheedy - Director.

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson Margaret Kennelly and directors were welcomed to our AGM 2018.

Minutes of the previous AGM were read by the secretary, accepted, proposed for adoption by Geraldine Hansbury and seconded by Ger Fahy.

Chairperson Margaret Kennelly addressed board members saying we endeavor to facilitate as many groups as possible to use our facilities and to keep it alive and vibrant. We are delighted that there is now activity at the centre 7 days a week. We recently developed a web site which helps to promote the centre and helps us reach out to the community which we serve. We have been successful in retaining our charitable status and as such we are recognized as existing for social good. This can assist with fundraising. Also, as a charity we can reclaim any expenditure on VAT at the end of each financial year. There are benefits to registering as a charity. Our bingo is the main money earner for the centre and would not be such a success without the time put in by Ger Fahy and Geraldine Hansbury, and all the volunteers involved, a big thanks to them for their continued efforts. I would like to thank all our directors and especially Ger Fahy for his diligent work in looking after the accounts and his dedication to the centre. We now have 10 directors all of who are dedicated to the community centre and its future development. Chairpersons report proposed for adoption by Edwin Bailey and seconded by Aisling Halpin.

The Finance officer Ger Fahy reviewed the accounts for year 2017 which were approved by the members. For year end 2017 they showed a surplus of €16,459 compared to a surplus of €5,065 the previous year. The accounts were proposed for adoption by Frances Quin and seconded by Geraldine Hansbury.

Directors.....

Due to company law whereby one third of directors must retire annually, Fiona O'Brien Maxwell, Edwin Bailey and Geraldine Hansbury retired. As they were willing to continue as directors and serve, they were declared re-elected. There were four member directors co-opted during 2018. As they were co-opted they resigned at the AGM and were re-elected by the members, proposed by Edwin Bailey and seconded by Aisling Halpin.

The Auditors Clune/Lynch, bankers Bank of Ireland and solicitors Crimmins/Howard were reappointed for the coming year, proposed by Geraldine Hansbury and seconded by Frank Donellan.

In an open forum Aisling Halpin proposed that she would work on Face Book to promote users of our facility alternating between users weekly. It was suggested that a damage deposit be requested from users refundable when the group ceased renting.

The AGM concluded and further essential business continued in a regular board meeting and is recorded in the minutes of that meeting dated 22.11.2018.

Signed Chairperson 

Date 17.12.2019

Signed Secretary 

Date 17/12/2019

Purpose - Mission - Values

Purpose

- To provide safe, suitable and comfortable facilities for the social, cultural, sporting, artistic and youth activities of the parish of Newmarket-on-Fergus and surrounding areas.
- To act as custodians and guardians of the Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre for future generations.
- To maintain and improve the facilities at Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre within the means available.
- To prudently and honestly manage the financial affairs of the Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre.
- To facilitate the residents of the community, so far as is possible within our remit, to enable them to enjoy a high quality of life, to achieve their economic, social and educational goals, and to ensure they are part of a strong, prosperous and caring community.

Mission

In order to achieve its purpose, Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre has as its mission:-

- To manage a Community Centre which provides high quality facilities and a range of activities that is accessible to all sections of the community.
- To continuously develop and update the centre, to meet the changing needs and expectations of the community, both now and in the future.
- To provide facilities for community groups, public sector organisations and family groups in order that they are enabled to assemble in a safe and comfortable facility for sport activity, social activity, competition, discussion and activities which enhance their living experience.
- To facilitate as far as is possible, access to activities for those who are disadvantaged, vulnerable or who face difficulties accessing facilities for their recreational activity and social interaction with their peers.

Values

Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre operates within the following values:-

- **Equal Opportunities** - As a provider of recreation facilities, Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre promotes equality of opportunity and believes in challenging discrimination of all kinds.
- **Community Cohesion** – Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre is committed to helping create a strong and vibrant community in which individuals from all cultures, backgrounds and beliefs are able to develop mutual understanding and respect.
- **Democracy and Accountability** – Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre is accountable to the community through open meetings and exchange of views with stake holders. It regularly communicates with and consults all sectors of the community, to ensure that its planning and decision making continues to reflect locally identified priorities.
- **Partnership Working** - Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre believes that collaboration with voluntary and community groups, public sector bodies and private sector businesses improves its ability to enhance resources and deliver better facilities for the community.
- **Independence and Financial Sustainability** - Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre recognises that it is in the best interests of the community it serves for it to plan financially sustainable future based on sound management, cost effectiveness and increasing its own income generation.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold. Everyone in Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre is a volunteer. From our management team, our board of directors and our wonderful group of volunteers, we have no employees. Our company is run on volunteerism. We must keep in mind that volunteers are not the same as employees. They can choose to stay with us and work with us or to walk away at any time without any loss to themselves.

That is why we appreciate you our volunteers so much. We sincerely thank you for your dedicated work and commitment to our organisation. You are crucial to the success of our Community Centre and its continuity in serving our community.

You have generously given of your time, effort and skill to make events run smoothly and successfully.

Thank You

To be a volunteer is an opportunity to further develop, it means you already have the following characteristics.....

- V** Value - being able to value and appreciate other people
- O** Outgoing - to communicate and to enhance the experience of those whom you assist
- L** Living - You love what you do in life
- U** Understanding - of different lives and different people and their backgrounds
- N** Neighbourly - being friendly and kind
- T** Time - giving freely of your time, effort and skill
- E** Empathy - to put yourself in someone else's shoes
- E** Eager - to make a difference in the community
- R** Reward - doing something for others rewards the doer.

Doing nothing for others is the undoing of ourselves.

Horace Mann (an American educationalist d.1859)

The Charities Governance Code

From 2019 the Charities Regulator is taking control of a new Charities Governance Code. It will be very similar to what we have already achieved in the voluntary governance code which has now been suspended. But we have learned a lot and what we have learned can be transferred to the new Charities Governance Code which is compulsory for all registered charities. During 2017 The Board of the Community Centre began preparing for the adoption of the voluntary Governance Code. The Code was for board members, managers, staff and volunteers of community, voluntary and charitable organisations. It was a resource to assist them develop their overall capacity in terms of how they ran their organisation. The code was provided free to all boards, committees and executives of not-for-profit groups to encourage them to check themselves against best practice in the management of their affairs. Good Governance means that policies and procedures are in place to ensure organisations are run well. It also ensures continuity if board members resign and new board members may pick up the good governance of the company without interruption. Our policies give us direction. But good governance is not only about regulations, it is an attitude of mind. It is about the ethical culture of the organisation and the behavior of the people on the governing body and its volunteers. Board members of Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre have undertaken work registering for the voluntary Governance Code and became compliant with the code in 2017. We will now transfer our knowledge and expertise to the Charities Governance Code.

There are key dates already adopted relating to the Charities Governance Code.

2019 - has been a year of learning and preparation for all 10,000 plus of Irelands registered charities.

2020 - will be the first year that registered charities are expected to comply with the code.

2021 - will be the first year that registered charities are expected to report to the Charities Regulator on their compliance with the Charities Governance Code.

- The Governance Code has assisted us in making sure that our organisation is run responsibly and that we are rewarded for compliance with greater efficiency and effectiveness and hopefully elevated reputations.
- The Governance Code has clearly outlined the roles, duties and responsibilities of all those who sit on our board of management, and our volunteers.
- By adopting the Governance Code and abiding by its ethos, all our stakeholders can have confidence in our management and our oversight.

Policies

The Board of Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre has developed policies linked to our purpose, mission and values, and our vision for the future. Our Purpose, Mission and Values statement may be viewed on page 3 of this document. Our policies are available to view on our website www.newmarketonferguscommunityhall.ie. They are an organised, agreed upon collection of procedures that come from the governing body of our organisation. It is important that we have these documented procedures written down as people move on and new people will not be familiar with previous board decisions. They keep the operational structure of the organisation in place. These procedures can be changed and improved upon by later committees and any changes updated in the procedures. The written procedures or policies are a useful tool to train in new volunteers or new board members. They also give consistency to what we do on a day to day basis and provide a framework for accountability and compliance to the highest standard in what we do and the services we provide.

We have developed policies on the following:-

- a) Child Protection**
- b) Equality**
- c) Food and Beverage**
- d) Garda Vetting**
- e) Health and Safety**
- f) Volunteers**
- g) Data Retention**
- h) Privacy**

These policies are published on our web site www.newmarketonferguscommunityhall.ie.

Activities

The activities which take place at the Community Centre vary from time to time and are mostly dependant on the organisations or sporting clubs who arrange them. Hereunder find a list of the most frequently arranged events which are mostly organised on a weekly basis.

- Martin Duggan's Keep Fit
- Karate
- Scouts - Beavers - Cubs
- Shannon Flyers Special Olympics
- ICA
- Weekly Bingo
- Hip Hop with Shelly
- Gun Club
- Apostolic Society
- Obair Summer and Easter camps
- Hand Ball
- Squash
- Medieval Sword
- Volly Ball
- Badminton
- Irish Dancing
- School Parties
- Private Parties

The most popular weekly event is bingo which is organised by members of the company assisted by volunteers and is the main source of income which is used to run the facility.

Supporting your Community Centre Supports all Community Organisations

Our Web Site

In 2017 the Board of Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre CLG decided to create a website for promoting our facility and informing people of what we do and the facilities we provide and maintain. We engaged 'Jack the Lad Productions' to create this website for us. They specialise in small to medium website design and we are happy with the creation and development of our website. We believe it creates a professional impression for our organisation and it inspires confidence in what we do and it helps create an interest in our activities. Our website is easy to navigate, user-friendly, and is visually appealing. The calendar of events is popular and a useful tool to let clients know what is on and when.

We have a section on local interest which highlights the history of our area with photographs. Pupils in our schools and visitors should find this interesting. It is hoped to expand this section into the future.



Annual Report on Bingo

During 2018 Bingo generated €16,500 which is €10,000 less than in 2017. This is still a substantial sum which enables the Board of the Community Centre to maintain the building to an high standard. Bingo takes place every Wednesday night. There is a dedicated team of seven volunteers who together with four directors ensure that a good nights entertainment is had by up to 150 people from all over Clare. The Jackpot of €10,000 was won on the 19th of December 2018 by a patron who was expecting her first child on December 22nd.

As well as raising money for the Community Centre the following groups have run successful sponsored bingos, Slainte an Chlair Cancer Support, Pieta House and St Caimins Transition Year students.

Directors

1) Margaret Kennelly	Chairperson
2) Edwin Bailey	Company Secretary
3) Ger Fahy	Finance Officer
4) Geraldine Hansbury	Director
5) Fiona O'Brien Maxwell	Director
6) Tommy Sheedy	Director
7) Frances Quinn	Director
8) Aisling Halpin	Director
9) Manus O'Donnell	Director
10) Frankie Donnellan	Director

Contact

Bookings and general enquiries 087-7761882

e-mail address newmarketonferguscommunityhall@gmail.com

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/VillageCommunityCentre

Auditors

HLB McKeogh Gallagher Ryan, 50 O'Connell Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Bankers

Bank of Ireland, Shannon Industrial Estate, Shannon, Co. Clare

Solicitors

Crimmins Howard Solicitors, Dolmen House, Shannon, Co Clare