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Notes of a meeting with A Reece regarding 3-4 Laburnum Terrace, Wylam (Former Post Office held at 3.00pm on Tuesday 25th June 2019

Present

A Reece – Reece Foundation

J Joures, C Percy & M Moore – Wylam Parish Council

B Dixon & S Robinson – Coachroad Productions

After J Joures welcomed A Reece to the meeting she explained that the purpose was to hear an update on the current position with regard to the now vacant former post office premises at 3-4 Laburnum Terrace, Wylam. The property had been purchased by the Parish Council with funding from the Reece Foundation.

J Joures then provided an overview of the Council's position since the lease on the property had been surrendered. He explained that the Council had considered a detailed appraisal of the future options available to it regarding the building, outlining these to A Reece, and after careful consideration had agreed to place the property on the open market.

In response to a question from A Reece regarding a possible future community use for the building it was explained that the Village was very well served by community facilities and it was doubtful whether any further space could be sustainable.

B Dixon then gave a detailed overview of the Celebrating Points Bridge Project which had been funded with a grant from the Parish Council from the funding remaining after the purchase of the Post Office. The project, which involved children from Wylam First School and members of the local community, would culminate in a documentary film and theatre production and display at Wylam Institute.

It was hoped that the project would enable more heritage work to take place in the school and would provide a platform for further projects and funding e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund.

Once the project had been completed and evaluated the Council would then take a view on what should be done with the remainder of the funding.

No decisions had yet been made about how the capital receipt from the future sale of the property should be used but it was agreed that all possible attempts should be made to maximize the funding e.g. by encouraging applications for match funding. Projects should also be sustainable going forward.

A Reece indicated that the Council should aim to develop a programme of projects to benefit the wider community, with a view to allocating the available funding within a 4-5 year timescale.