



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6th February 2018

PRESENT:

Gareth Lugar Mawson (Chair)
Richard Hollingum (Director)
Cameron Waldron (Director)
George Hook (Director)

Ken Christy (Director)
David Scudamore (Director)
Fabienne Fraser-Allen (Director)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Elaine O'Leary (Chief Executive)
Rebecca Breakwell (Rural Officer)
Dawn Howard (Rural Wellbeing Fieldworker)
Jeffrey Greenwell (Vice-President)
Nigel Searle (Brigstock Parish Council)

Frances Harris (Community Facilities Adviser)
James Davidson (Site Caretaker)
Gordon Shorley (Vice-President)
Sarah Clarke (Centre Co-ordinator)

1. APOLOGIES:

Hugh Fenton (CVS)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th November 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by GLM, Seconded by RH and carried unanimously.

Approved

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

GLM stated that the Charity is doing well and is financially sound and we are still receiving financial support from DEFRA. On 1st February 2017, the decision was taken by the majority of Trustees not to sell the Hunsbury Hill Centre; this has not been revisited since.

GLM explained that the Best Village Competition will be running in 2018 and we will continue to support it.

GLM thanked that Board and Staff for their support over the past year.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

EOL explained that it has been a good year, outside organisations are beginning to recognise what we do and have started to come to us for help and advice, this is due to the hard work of the staff. SNC have recently come to use with 2 pieces of work, the Good Neighbours scheme and a Health and Wellbeing Audit, this is partly due to the work of DH and LH spreading the word through the Rural Wellbeing Service.

EOL stated that FH is doing a fantastic job, especially with the Governance, always knowing the answers to very difficult questions put to us by our Community Facility members. She also held a very successful coffee morning event at HHC for Village Halls Week with over 30 representatives attending from Village Halls.

EOL explained that RB has begun holding master classes on topics such as; Neighbourhood Planning and Village Design Statements, she is currently concentrating on Community Planning and setting up Good Neighbour Schemes across the County.

EOL thanked JD for doing a fantastic job with the grounds and building maintenance, his hard work resulted in us winning a Gold Award in the 2017 Northampton in Bloom Competition.

EOL also thanked SC for her hard work and commitment to The Barns at Hunsbury Hill as well as the Charity.

EOL explained that it is great to see the Charity moving forward and thanked everyone for their individual involvement in making this happen.

EOL stated that we are holding a Celebrate Shops, Pubs and Community Hubs event on Wednesday 14th March 2018 from 10am to 3pm at HHC, we will send the information out via email if Trustees could assist in spreading the word about this event, we would be very grateful.

5. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2017:

GLM explained that the draft Annual Accounts for 2016-2017 were formally approved by a majority of the Trustees and were submitted to Companies House prior to the 31st December deadline.

EOL stated that they have also been submitted to the Charities Commission along with the Annual Report.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2017 – 2018:

To be dealt with in the closed meeting after the AGM

7. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

A) Election of Mr Richard Hollingum, Mrs Fabienne Fraser-Allen, Mr Cameron Waldron and Mr David Scudamore.

GLM explained that RH, FFA, CW and DS are willing to stand for election. GLM proposed that RH, FFA, CW and DS be elected as Trustee. This was seconded by KC and carried unanimously.

**Elected: Mr Richard Hollingum
Mrs Fabienne Fraser-Allen
Mr Cameron Waldron
Mr David Scudamore**

B) Re-election of Mr George Hook;

Re-election of Mr. George Hook - As Mr. Hook arrived late, the meeting was adjourned for a short period to allow for GLM and KC to talk with him. They explained that they both would not be supporting his re-election due to his continual negative and disruptive conduct. To prevent such embarrassment it was suggested that he should resign, and go with grace. Mr. Hook took exception at this, lost his temper and left the building.

The AGM was adjourned for a short period while GLM and KC met with GH. Following this GH left the meeting and the AGM was reconvened.

GLM explained that over the past year variances have occurred between the Chief Executive, GLM (Chair of the Board), other Trustees and GH.

KC and GLM requested to meet with George Hook at the start of the year, the only forthcoming response was that the suggested dates were not convenient and they were not able to fix a date prior to today's meeting.

When the AGM was adjourned, GLM and KC met with GH to discuss his continued involvement in the charity. It was explained to GH that a resolution opposing his re-election would be put to the Board and the likely outcome would be he would not be re-elected.

GH took the decision to resign from Northamptonshire ACRE with immediate effect.

GLM explained that this situation had caused him personal anguish and distress; he stated that the Charity will run more happily now that GH has resigned.

8. ELECTION OF HONORARY TREASURER FOR THE YEAR 2017 – 2018:

GLM explained that due to GH's resignation, this matter will need to be dealt with separately in the closed meeting after the AGM.

9. APPOINTMENT AND REMUNERATION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS:

FFA proposed that Messrs Jervis and Partners be remunerated and be appointed as Independent Examiners for the year 2017 - 2018. Seconded by CW and carried unanimously.

Approved

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None declared.

11. CLOSING REMARKS

GLM ended the meeting by thanking Directors, Observers & staff for attending.