



**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE  
APPROVED MINUTES OF  
THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**11.30am Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

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**PRESENT:**

Gareth Lugar Mawson (Chair NACRE & HHC)  
Richard Hollingum (Trustee NACRE)  
Rachel Boyd (Trustee NACRE)  
Jeffery Greenwell (VP NACRE)

Cameron Waldron (Trustee NACRE)  
David Scudamore (Trustee NACRE)  
Gordon Shorley (VP NACRE)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Elaine O'Leary (Chief Executive)  
Sarah Clarke (Centre Coordinator)  
James Davidson (Site Caretaker)  
Charlene Brown (Communications Administrator)  
Natasha Jimenez Sanchez (Projects Administrator)  
Frances Harris (Community Facilities Advisor)  
Cllr Eugene O'Leary (Scaldwell Parish Council)  
Cllr Liz Searle (Brigstock Parish Council)  
Cllr Lilian Stageman (Greatworth & Halse Parish Council)  
Cllr Laurence Harper (Finedon Town Council)  
Cllr Ian Wilson (Hannington Parish Council)  
Cllr Catherine Lomax (Daventry District Council)  
Cllr Maggie Allen (East Hunsbury Parish Council)  
Cllr Colin Wilkinson (Harpole Parish Council)  
Alwyne Wilson (Nether Heyford Village Hall)  
Anne Goss (Blisworth Village Hall Committee)  
Ann North (Blisworth Village Hall Committee)  
Colin Gardner (Chairman, Blisworth Village Hall Committee)  
Nigel Searle (Brigstock Parish Council)  
Tony Wincott (Weedon Village Hall Committee)  
Suzy Sanders (external minute taker)

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Ken Christy (Trustee NACRE)

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by GLM, Seconded by DS and carried unanimously.

**Approved**

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

GLM thanked everyone for coming and for their support.

GLM stated that it had been a good year for the Charity which is now debt free. Projects continue to progress well, and further future projects are being sought for which the board welcome input from the wider community.

The charity has lost and gained staff this year and the trading arm HHC Ltd. has performed exceptionally well producing a decent profit. Next year is not looking as good but it's being worked on.

The charity has been lucky this year in securing funding from DEFRA however, the future beyond the general election in December 2019 is unknown. GLM stated that he hopes future funding is in the governments interest and that Senior Civil Servants at DEFRA value the work the ACRE network and Northamptonshire ACRE do.

No questions or concerns were raised and GLM thanked the Board, EOL, the Staff and all NACRE's supporters for their commitment and hard work over the past year.

#### **4. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

EOL shared an update following the National ACRE AGM and Conference. The DEFRA funding ends in March 2020 and whilst EOL is hopeful of further funding, at this time there are no guarantees. EOL commented on a survey commissioned by DEFRA, which has been produced by PwC and which reports on the whole ACRE network. Whilst she is unable to share the findings at this time, it encourages the government to value the work being done and the transformational changes being made by the network.

NACRE is delighted that it has received confirmation of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund Project for a 3 year Good Neighbour Scheme project that will help to set up and support 30 schemes across Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and south East Northants. Unfortunately we are unable to publicise it at the moment due to the election situation. However if any Parish Council would like to know more about the Good Neighbour Schemes work, they are welcome to contact Elaine for more details.

The Barns at Hunsbury Hill, the trading name for the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd had a very successful year both last year (2018) and this year. A £20k donation has been received from HHC Ltd, which is reflected in the NACRE 2018-19 accounts. Taking into account the donation, the rent paid by HHC Ltd to the charity for hiring the barns, payment of the Event Co-ordinator's salary and partial payment of the Caretaker and Manager salaries, HHC Ltd was able to provide the charity with over £100,000 in 2018-19. This shows what a valuable asset the Hunsbury Hill Centre site is for the charity, one which many of the other ACRE equivalents do not have.

There were a number of staff losses during 2018-19 but new staff were also taken on and worked well on the projects they were responsible for. Due to time and resource challenges, work on the South Northants commissioned Good Neighbour Schemes has slowed but will pick up again once the new member of staff, Jennie Hedges, joins the team on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019. The work for Daventry Citizens Advice and South Northamptonshire Council will be a priority focus for her.

EOL expressed her delight with the team that is now in place and introduced Charlene Brown (Communications Administrator) and Natasha Jimenez Sanchez (Projects Administrator). EOL thanked Sarah Clarke (Centre Coordinator) for coordinating a

'phenomenal' 80 weddings in 2019. James Davidson (Site Caretaker) was also mentioned for his hard work and consistently maintaining the upkeep of the site. EOL thanked Frances Harris (Community Facilities Advisor) for all the work she does dealing with all the village hall enquiries, some of which can be difficult and time consuming and especially the work carried out on the Village Halls Improvement Grant Scheme.

EOL explained that a full staff update is available in the Meeting Packs provided. No questions were raised and EOL thanked the trustees and all in attendance for their ongoing support.

## **5. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2019:**

EOL talked through the Statement of Financial Activities 2018 – 2019 and the Balance Sheet, which was provided to attendees in the meeting packs.

Whilst a large deficit of just over £52k was noted in the accounts, EOL clarified that it's not all 'doom and gloom'. The Funds Analysis showed £77k bought forward from April 2018 into the general funds. At the end of year, the charity had £73k in its general funds and a further £20k dilapidation funds available. Meaning that the charity has an overall total of £93k in the General Fund - which puts it in a 'good position'.

Several years ago, the charity had a lot of debts (circa £100k), which have all now been paid off. GLM added that the Accountants assures the Board that the charity is 'very sound' financially and reiterated that HHC Ltd is the lifeline of the Charity.

GLM advised that the draft Annual Accounts for 2018-2019 are to be approved by the Trustees in the next few weeks and will be circulated to members in due course. The final accounts will be prepared for approval by the Trustees and will be submitted to Companies House prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> December deadline.

## **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019 – 2020**

The current president is David Laing, HM Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire.

The current Vice Presidents are the Right Reverend Donald Allister, the Bishop of Peterborough, Lord Boswell of Aynho, Mr Gordon Shorley and Mr Jeffery Greenwell CBE.

All, with the exception of Canon Paul Rose, have indicated their willingness to re-stand and have been re-elected.

**Proposed by GLM and seconded by RH.**

## **7. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

- a) Re-election of Mr Ken Christy
- b) Election of Mrs Rachael Boyd

**Proposed by GLM and seconded by DS.**

After taking into account known resignations and elections, the Trustees of Northamptonshire ACRE for the ensuring year will be (in alphabetical order): Mrs Rachael Boyd, Mr Ken Christy, Mr Richard Hollingum, Mr Bernard Lock, Mr Gareth Lugar-Mawson, Mr David Scudamore and Mr Cameron Waldron – a total of 7 Trustees.

## **8. APPOINTMENT AND REMUNERATION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS:**

GLM and the board recommends that Messrs Jervis and Partners be remunerated and reappointed as Independent Examiners for the year 2019 - 2020. Seconded by RH.

**Approved**

## **9. BRINGING RURAL TO THE TOWN: WHERE WE ARE – MR RICHARD HOLLINGUM, TRUSTEE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

RH delivered a presentation on the Hunsbury Hill Farmstead Project to bring members up to date on plans for the site, buildings and green spaces. RH shared details of the working project group, the creation of the project mission statement and the vision for what the site might look like in 2030.

Local community engagement is a key focus, along with showcasing the work the charity does within the rural community, enhancing the wedding trading arm, building on heritage connections and embracing the use of green technology.

RH shared the developmental aims of the project which are: the farmhouse, the hovels, the woodland, green spaces and car parking. Conversations are underway to secure potential partnerships. An application to the Lottery Heritage Fund will be made but the first step is to conduct a feasibility study and appoint an architect in early 2020. The project will be phased and is estimated to be costed at around £3 - 4m.

Other work underway includes the creation of a Stakeholders Register, investigating ways to measure social impact and establishing a 'Friends of NACRE' Facebook Group.

RH invited all present to attend the Community Festival taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

JG enquired into past concerns and viewpoints regarding public access. RH explained that the current opinion of the board was divided, reflective of past concerns and that access/security would be reviewed each step of the way.

The presentation was circulated to attendees following the meeting.

## **10. EVERYBODY NEEDS GOOD NEIGHBOURS – MRS ELAINE O'LEARY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

EOL delivered a presentation on the Good Neighbour Scheme which will commence in April 2020 and the recent application success from the National Lottery Community Fund. EOL shared the background, progress and some key statistics from the Rural Wellbeing Service, where this project originated. The full report can be accessed at: <https://www.northantsacre.org.uk/rural-wellbeing-service>

EOL's presentation covered what the scheme is, what it is not, how it works and what's in scope and encouraged all members to make contact if they would like to get involved.

The presentation was circulated to attendees following the meeting.

## **11. MEETING DATES FOR 2020**

- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (Away Day)
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September (AGM and associated Board Meetings)
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None raised.

## **13. CLOSING REMARKS**

GLM thanked everyone and expressed that the NACRE team are here to help.

*Meeting closed at 1pm*