



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10am Wednesday 25th November 2020

PRESENT:

Gareth Lugar Mawson (Chair NACRE & HHC)	Richard Hollingum (Trustee NACRE)
David Scudamore (Trustee NACRE)	Ken Christy (Trustee NACRE)
Lord Boswell (Vice President)	Jeffery Greenwell (Vice President)
David Laing (Vice President)	Gordon Shorley (Vice President)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alison Grantham	Duston Parish Council
Anne Thompson	Deanshanger Parish Council
Catherine Lomax	Observer, Councillor, Daventry District Council.
Charlene Browne	Staff/Communications Administrator
Colin Wilkinson	Harpole Parish Council
David Howes	Observer, Councillor Kettering Borough Council.
Duncan Webber	Welton Village Hall
Elaine O'Leary	Staff/Chief Executive
Frances Harris	Staff/Community Facilities Advisor
Hugh Fenton	Observer
Jennifer Hedges	Staff/Rural Officer
John Elliott	East Hunsbury Parish Council
Linda Morrison	Earls Barton Parish Council
Lynn Pilley	Old Village Hall
Maureen Holliday	Pitsford Parish Council
Mick Morris	Farthinghoe Parish Council
Moira Roche-King	Wollaston is Kind
Natasha Jimenez Sanchez	Staff/Project Administrator
Nigel Searle	Brigstock Parish Council
Pat Scouse	Broughton Parish Council
Peter Cooper	Badby Village Hall
Richard Barnwell	Great Cransley Parish Council
Ros Williatts	Wilbarston Parish Council
Rosemary Smart	Earls Barton Parish Council
Sarah Clarke	Staff/Centre Co-ordinator
Susanne Read-Maskell	Kings Sutton Parish Council
Suzy Sanders	Minute Taker
Sylvia Glanville-Hughes	Stanwick Parish Council

1. APOLOGIES:

Cameron Waldron (Trustee NACRE)
Miranda Prentice (Trustee NACRE)
HM Lord Lieutenant James Sanders-Watson (President NACRE)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th November 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record pending two adjustments. Proposed by GLM, Seconded by DS and carried unanimously.

Approved

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

GLM thanked everyone for coming and for their support.

GLM delivered his report verbally stating that it had been a difficult year for the charity, but it has survived and has continued to enhance its profile within the community. Financially, the charity is performing very well. Receiving funding from DEFRA, income from an insurance claim relating to a past employment issue has contributed to this.

Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd (NACRE's trading arm) has suffered due to all weddings/events booked for the year have been moved or cancelled and this has had a heavy impact on the income to the trading arm and ultimately into the charity. However indications from wedding enquiries and future bookings for 2021-22 and 2022-23 mean that the outlook is hopeful and that HHC will recover and thrive.

No questions or concerns were raised and GLM expressed his exceptional gratitude to 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 a verbal update, expressing that it had been an awful year for all but that the staff (who have been working from home since March 2020) had truly risen to the occasion. Hopes are that the team will be back in the office in Spring 2021.

EOL highlighted the DEFRA and HHC funding received. She also offered her thanks to Sarah Clarke for all her hard work rearranging the 56 weddings that were scheduled for 2020 that have been unable to proceed. As it stands, 76 weddings are booked for 2021. EOL noted the income impact from the movement of these bookings but stated the increase of income into the charity to help balance some of this loss.

A draft of the Annual Review document was shared on screen and will be circulated to all NACRE members. This document has been created to celebrate the achievement of the charity and current projects including the many Good Neighbour Schemes, COVID-19 pop up support, Village Halls, transport directory, fuel poverty/bulk oil scheme and Parish Council membership and support. It also highlights Northamptonshire ACRE's planned 75th birthday celebrations in 2021.

An overview was shared of the ambitious HHC Farmstead Project of which an expression of interest is being submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund imminently.

GLM reiterated that NACRE is working collaboratively and complimentary, not competitively, with NCALC and confirmed that communication is active regarding the new unitary authorities. No further questions or comments were raised.

5. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2020

EOL advised that the Annual Accounts had been delayed and were currently with the Accountant. Once finalised, they will be shared with the Trustees (and members) for approval pending submission. The Statement of Financial Activities showing last year was shared on screen and talked through. This document shows funds carried forward and the re-evaluation of the asset value of the site. Last year there was a loss of circa £50k and this year a small surplus is expected. EOL noted the good turnaround and stated that the general and dilapidation funds were healthy with sufficient reserves for more than 4 months running costs.

No questions were raised.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2020 – 2021

The current Honorary President is Mr James Saunders Watson, HM Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire who took over from Mr David Laing this year. The current Vice-Presidents are Mr David Laing, The Right Reverend Donald Allister, the Bishop of Peterborough, Lord Boswell of Aynho, Mr Gordon Shorley and Mr Jeffrey Greenwell CBE.

All have indicated their willingness to re-stand and have been re-elected.

Proposed by GLM and seconded by DS with no objections.

7. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

- a) Re-election of Mr Richard Hollingum
- b) Re-election of Mr Cameron Waldron
- c) Re-election of Mr David Scudamore
- d) Election of Mrs Miranda Prentice

Proposed by GLM and seconded by KC with no objections.

After taking into account known resignations and elections, the Trustees of Northamptonshire ACRE for the ensuing year will be (in alphabetical order): Mr Ken Christy, Mr Richard Hollingum, Mr Bernard Lock, Mr Gareth Lugar-Mawson, Mrs Miranda Prentice, 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 2020 - 2021. Seconded by DS.

Approved

9. DEVELOPING A RURAL FOOD NETWORK FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

a) Why a food network? Presentation by Elaine O’Leary

EOL presented an introduction to the concerns around food poverty in rural communities which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as details on the

working group that has been bought together and the rural food survey and food map that have been created to provide evidence for change.

b) Rural food survey. Presentation by Jennifer Hedges, Rural Officer Northamptonshire ACRE

JH shared the Rural Food Report in its first draft on screen and talked through the key findings. The report is due to be finalised in December 2020 and the data can be openly shared to support any other community projects and funding applications.

JH also shared the Rural Food Map on screen and delivered an overview of the initiative which is in its early stages. The possibility of mobile or pop-up food banks was raised and ideas to breakdown the stigma of rural food poverty was discussed.

c) Wollaston is Kind. Presentation by Moira Roche-King, Wollaston is Kind.

Moira Roche-King presented on the work the community project Wollaston is Kind undertakes as well as activities in various 'splinter groups' across the county.

Congratulations and thanks were shared with Moira for her inspiring and heart-warming work. GLM requested that Moira contribute a website news article for NACRE. JH and EOL are to liaise on this.

10. THE GREEN AGENDA FOR THE HUNSBURY HILL FARM PROJECT

RH delivered a presentation on the Hunsbury Hill Farmstead Project to bring members up to date on plans for the site, buildings, green spaces with a particular focus on the green aspirations for the project.

11. MEETING DATES FOR 2021

- Wednesday 3rd March 2021
- Wednesday 9th June 2021 (Away Day)
- Wednesday 8th September 2021 (AGM and associated Board Meetings)
- Wednesday 1st December 2021

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

13. CLOSING REMARKS

The meeting was recorded and all the above presentations and meeting link will be circulated to attendees following the meeting. Thanks were shared from various members present regarding the 'wonderful' work and projects. GLM thanked everyone for their attendance and support.

Meeting closed at 12pm