



MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

10am on Wednesday 3rd March 2021

PRESENT:

Richard Hollingum (Trustee)
Gareth Lugar Mawson (Chair)
Ken Christy (Trustee)

David Scudamore (Trustee)
Cameron Waldron (Trustee)
Miranda Wixon (Trustee)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Elaine O'Leary (Chief Executive)
Jenni Hedges (Rural Officer)
Sarah Clarke (Centre Coordinator)
Frances Harris (Community Facilities Advisor)
Natasha Jimenez Sanchez (Project Administrator)
Charlene Brown (Communications Administrator)

Suzy Sanders (minute taker)
Catherine Lomax (DDC Observer)

1. APOLOGIES: None

ABSENT: Bernard Lock (Trustee)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To be raised if relevant during the meeting.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There are no minutes to be approved as the previous meeting was the AGM.

4. UPDATE ON CURRENT SITUATION

EOL delivered a verbal update covering the staff working from home, Zoom meetings and plans to return to the site no earlier than 1st June 2021. EOL expressed her thanks to the team for all their commitment and support.

The new financial year budget is being worked on and a deficit of circa £65k is expected in the current financial year due to no weddings or income from HHC Ltd. It was noted that five wedding venues in the county have ceased trading, resulting in new interest and enquires. EOL explained that overall, the charity has performed well with income received from training, events, consultancy and projects.

EOL shared an update on government grants received which included a £10k small business grant and a subsequent £3k 'top up'. The terms of the Bounce Back loan received from Yorkshire Bank was also discussed.

SC gave a verbal update on the current status of wedding bookings under the current restrictions. As it stands, bookings total 59 which may still have movement depending on how restrictions are lifted and there is a waiting list for venue viewings.

EOL stated that there wasn't much to report regarding the management of the site, the buildings and grounds are in good order. Following the recent tree works, no further issues have arisen.

The grounds maintenance work is being outsourced on an adhoc basis. In addition, students from Moulton College will be returning from 18th March to carry out ground works. A RLE1 form has been submitted to formally link the site grounds to NACRE and work to repair the pot holes on the drive will commence when the weather is favourable.

The advertisements for the two full time FTC Field Worker roles are being advertised W/C 1st March 2021 with the view of them starting on site when it's safe to do so.

EOL shared and talked through an update document for the Hunsbury Hill Farmstead project on screen, covering progress, completion of an Expression of Interest form to Heritage Lottery, the new project priorities and the change in terms meaning that 10% of the project will need to be match funded. EOL advised that additional funding streams are being constantly pursued.

5. STAFF REPORTS

The staff reports were circulated to all attendees in advance of the meeting and shared on screen. Each team member gave a verbal update covering highlights and questions. EOL also expanded on the SEMLEP VCSE group and Natural Capital data map pilot, confirming that related documentation is stored in the Trustees shared DropBox folder.

6. COVID-19 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS UPDATE

EOL advised that meetings are due to take place in the coming weeks. The booklet is being prepared and online options are being explored for the event due to current restrictions. An anticipated £500-£800 of funding is needed for the printing of the booklets. GLM suggested that James Saunders-Watson or David Laing may be worth approaching to ask if they know of any available funds.

ACTION EOL

7. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE 75TH ANNIVERSARY WEEK

EOL delivered an update on plans for an online anniversary week, seeking input and support from the Trustees on both topic and speaker suggestions to showcase rural life, how NACRE help, the history of NACRE and looking towards the future. FH has ideas following some initial research, Tim Cawkwell and Michael Morris were suggested. EOL is to continue conversations and planning, keeping GLM in the loop.

ACTION EOL

8. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS OF BOARD AND STAFF

The away day Board Meeting is confirmed to take place on Wednesday 9th June 2021 at 10am.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CL advised that this is to be her last meeting in the capacity as observer for Daventry District Council expressing her thanks and best wishes to all at NACRE. GLM returned the sentiment, sharing deepest thanks to CL on behalf of all at NACRE.

GLM thanked EOL and the team for all their efforts in difficult times.

Meeting closed at 11.15am