



**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**  
**MINUTES OF**  
**THE OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

**10am on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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**PRESENT:**

Gareth Lugar Mawson (Chair)  
David Scudamore (Trustee)  
Ken Christy (Trustee)

Richard Hollingum (Trustee)  
Cameron Waldron (Trustee)  
Miranda Prentice (Trustee)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Elaine O’Leary (Chief Executive)  
Suzy Sanders (external minute taker)  
Natasha Jimenez Sanchez (Project Administrator)  
Frances Harris (Community Facilities Advisor)

Jenni Hedges (Rural Officer)  
Cllr David Howes (Observer)  
Cllr Catherine Lomax (Observer)

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Rachael Boyd (Trustee)  
Sarah Clarke (Events Coordinator)  
Charlene Brown (Communications Administrator)

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

To be raised if relevant during the meeting.

**3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

There are no minutes awaiting approval.

**4. UPDATE ON COVID-19 SITUATION**

EOL gave a verbal update which included staff working arrangements, management of site and the new NLCF fieldworkers recruitment, which will commence in January 2021 for April start.

EOL also shared an overview of financial support received from the government which includes furlough claims, an application to Northampton Borough Council Retail/Hospitality/Leisure grant for £10k and the ‘bounce-back loan’ received from the bank.

SC and EOL are maintaining the site with the support of contractors, recent contractor work include roof slates being replaced and maintenance of the stone walls and lawns.

**5. FUNDING WORK**

EOL shared an update on funding work and projects including the National Lottery Community Foundation Good Neighbour scheme which is on target. A number of schemes have been set up and EOL passed on her thanks to Kettering Borough Council for their support and assistance in promoting the new schemes.

NACRE has received funding to enable promoting safeguarding in village halls and JH is on the steering group for this project. FH gave an update on this initiative which is being funded and promoted by the National ACRE network which will be concluded W/C 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 with a 'launch week' supported with social media.

EOL has applied for the Coronavirus Fund through the National Lottery for two initiatives group insurance and Christmas Gifts for vulnerable people as part of the Good Neighbour Schemes. An outcome is expected towards the end of October 2020, EOL will keep the Board updated.

#### **ACTION EOL**

JH is looking into funding options for biodiversity/green work and partners and funding is being sought to create a food network with the view of reducing food waste and miles as well as ensuring that people have access to and the knowledge to use locally produced products.

### **6. STAFF REPORTS**

All staff reports were circulated in advance of the meeting and were taken as read. The reports were shared on screen and discussed. All staff present delivered verbal updates and answered questions.

DH highlighted the lack of understanding in some villages between the differences with NACRE and NCALC. A review of marketing materials is to be carried out to ensure that the value and membership offering is clear before sending to parish councils. DH offered his support with this.

#### **ACTION EOL**

### **7. COVID-19 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS**

EOL gave an update on this initiative which is replacing the Village Awards this year to acknowledge and celebrate the work that's been going on. 76 nominations have been received to date, which have been shared out amongst the judges. Individual certificates along with an overall booklet are being prepared with a celebratory evening planned for 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021. EOL requested recommendations from the Board as to suitable speakers.

#### **ACTION TRUSTEES**

### **8. UPDATE ON THE HUNSBURY HILL FARM PROJECT**

RH gave a verbal update, explaining that meetings have continued with the working party and architects just at a slower pace as a result of COVID. A written expression of interest is being submitted as soon as possible to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for circa £4-5m to fund the project.

### **9. ANNUAL REPORT**

EOL shared plans to prepare a highlight report of the year covering, achievements and case studies to demonstrate the social impact of the charity.

### **10. AOB**

KC expressed the Trustee's 'heartfelt thanks' to EOL and the staff for all their hard work during a very difficult period.

GLM advised that a full refund has been given by the insurance company for the costs incurred as a result of the employment dispute in 2018/19

GLM also shared that following the local government reorganisation, the new authorities may be looking to get rid of green spaces/land which could be an opportunity for NACRE. GLM is to share his initial ideas with the Trustees.

**ACTION GLM**

**11. CONFIRMED DATES FOR NEXT MEETING OF BOARD AND STAFF**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (Annual General Meeting) via Zoom.

*Meeting closed at 11.15am*