

Minutes of a meeting of  
The Blaxhall Commons & Open Spaces Charitable Trust

3.30pm, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Holly Cottage, Mill Common, Blaxhall

Present: J. Hume, M. Oakley, E. Rossor, S. Smedley

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NOTE: Some sections of these minutes may have been redacted in order to remove commercially sensitive information and to protect the privacy of third parties.

**1. To elect a chairman for the meeting**

Eve Rossor agreed to chair the meeting.

**2. To elect a secretary for the meeting**

Steve Smedley agreed to take minutes.

**3. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Nigel Suckling.

**4. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting of the Trustees (14<sup>th</sup> May) had been previously circulated and were approved as an accurate reflection of the proceedings of the meeting.

**5. Matters arising and update on actions from last meeting**

5.1. SS reported that documentary evidence of the Charity's activities had been sent to HMRC. The Charity is now awaiting a response on registering the Charity with HMRC for the purposes of Gift Aid and VAT.

5.2. SS reported that the Parish Clerk had been contacted again for details of the Parish Council's login details to the Open Spaces Society website, but that no reply had been forthcoming. SS agreed to pursue this matter at the next Parish Council meeting on 6th July.

**ACTION: SS**

5.3. SS reported that the approach to SWT for quotes for an environmental assessment and management plan had not yet been

made. The brief given to SWT will include feedback from the public meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March, reiterating the need for a balance between maintaining the visual appearance of the land as far as possible and making improvements for environmental benefit.

On receiving the environmental assessment and proposed management plan it was agreed that the Trustees would implement the proposals according to the following scheme:

- a) Identify top priority improvements.
- b) Agree improvements with land owner(s)
- c) Initiate a 3-month consultation period with villagers.
- d) Recruit volunteers to implement the agreed aspects of the management plan.

**ACTION: SS**

- 5.4. JH reported that he had still not made been able to contact Kevin Ross to discuss the management of Tunstall Common. ER offered to try to make an approach.

**ACTION: ER**

- 5.5. MO reported that no progress had yet been made on investigating the transfer of the Charity to a membership-based model.

**ACTION: MO**

- 5.6. SS reported that Suffolk Norse had not yet been contacted with regard to supporting further community litter picks in the autumn. This action would be progressed later in the year.

**ACTION: SS**

- 5.7. SS confirmed that a letter had been sent to Suffolk Coastal District Council, copied to the owner of the plot of Registered Common opposite The Sheilings acknowledging that the land had now been accepted onto the Register of Community Assets and expressing an interest in (a) a possible purchase in the future or (b) negotiation with respect to management. No reply had been received.

- 5.8. The possible management of The Pit by the Charity is to be raised again at the next Parish Council meeting on 6th July.

**ACTION: JH/SS**

- 5.9. It was agreed that a decision on the format and content of the next public meeting, to include an extended presentation by Rodney West, would be deferred to the next Trustees' meeting when all Trustees will be present.

## **6. Finance**

- 6.1. An update on financial matters had been provided by NS to the Trustees by email. The bank balance was £1977. The bill from Savills for land valuation has been paid using the Suffolk County Council Locality Budget grant from Cllr Reid. An invoice for the use of the Village Hall will be issued at the end of the month.

## **7. The Charity's bid for land at Mill Common**

JH and MO reported back to the Trustees on a meeting held with David Pugh. The Charity's offer to put in a bid to purchase land at Mill Common had been politely received but Mr Pugh had indicated that at the moment he was currently minded not to sell. Mr Pugh was sympathetic to the idea of a negotiated management plan for the land but would not consider anything at the moment.

The Trustees agreed that, notwithstanding the likelihood of a refusal, the Charity would submit a formal offer to purchase the land before the deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> June, to be copied to Suffolk Coastal District Council. The Trustees agreed a bid price based on the valuation of the land previously carried out by Savills.

**ACTION: JH**

## **8. Correspondence received**

No additional correspondence had been received that was not covered by other agenda items.

**ACTION: NS**

## **9. Other business**

- 9.1. SS reported that a response had been made on behalf of the Charity to a planning application for a two-storey extension to Mill House expressing concerns over (a) the incorrect depiction of land boundaries; (b) the increase in the extent of the "20-metre exclusion zone" under the terms of the CRoW Act 2000; (c) the need for the Planning Authority to be vigilant over encroachment on common land during building work. This had been copied to the architect responsible for the plans. JH reported back on the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held to discuss the planning

application. The Parish Council had been generally sympathetic and had been happy to support the application.

- 9.2. The date of the next public meeting (September/October) will be set at the next Trustees meeting.

#### **10. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Trustees will be held at 3.30pm, 23<sup>rd</sup> July at Waterloo House, Stone Common.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.