

**TRUSTEES MEETING**

**11.30 a.m. on Wednesday 1st July 2020**

**via ZOOM**

**M I N U T E S**

**1. Present:** Helen Haran, Ruth Barker, Barbara Williams (Chair), Caroline James, Stuart Lowerson, Margaret Laraway, Mo Forster (Minutes).

**2. Apologies:** Sue Welch, Nick Worboys.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 27th May 2020.** These were accepted as a true record.

**4. Reason for holding the meeting digitally:** The decision was taken to hold the meeting digitally due to the current coronavirus pandemic and the social distancing regulations.

**5. Finance Report:** The Treasurer, Caroline James, gave an up-date.

* The only money which has been paid out since the last report is £50.00 which was used to buy plants.
* Barbara informed the meeting that we have two potential sources of income, these are:
  + Following a discussion with the manager of One Stop, we are to make an application for £500.00. One Stop donates the money they raise from the sale of carrier bags to local charities.
  + Nigel Barton, the organiser of the Crawcrook 5k virtual run, will be donating money raised from the run to Our Villages.
* It has been decided we will not be buying a Christmas tree for Crawcrook this year, we will be using the existing one, which has grown a little over the last few months. It was suggested we put up extra lights to compensate.

**6. Crawcrook Park:**

A lengthy discussion took place on the future of the Park and our plans for its development. (Agenda items 11 and 12 were incorporated into this discussion).

* At the outset of the discussion Barbara reminded the group of actions that have been taken so far, which include:
* An initial expression of interest form has been submitted to the council, as a marker, to have the pavilion, bowling green and compound transferred to Our Villages. The form, at this stage, is incomplete as it needs to include a business plan which we will need to develop.
* We received an expression of interest from Lane Head Pub who are very keen to be involved in the development of the park. They have an ambitious plan; they want to replace the pavilion with a multi-purpose building which would benefit a number of groups in the community. Talks of a café/bar, changing rooms, storage facilities are some of the ideas they have put forward.
* We also have interest from Tony who wants to develop the bowling green and the multi-use games area (MUGA) for sporting activities.
* The multi-purpose building and the sports facilities could provide income generation for Our Villages and this would form part of the business plan.
  + - * At this point Helen shared information about the proposed plans for building bungalows in the park. Pointing out:

The current plans are for the bungalows to be built in an L shape, with one of the bungalows being built on the compound. If this does happen it will mean an end to all our plans for the development of the park.

After a great deal of work, Helen put forward an alternative proposal to the council, that is to build the bungalows in an I shape. If the council agreed to this it would not affect the park and it would allow us to continue with our plans. However, permission does not exist for the I shape, so we would need, somehow, to get permissions changed.

Members of the meeting agreed they want a community facility which includes 5 a-side football, changing rooms etc. One trustee did state she was not comfortable with the asset transfer, that it was a lot of responsibility although recognising there is no liability for trustees. Other trustees’ views were that the park benefits the community and without it the community would lose a lot.

* + - * Next steps were agreed:

A meeting is to be arranged with local councillors. At this meeting we would set out our vision and the benefits of building the bungalows in an I shape. **BW to write to all three councillors.**

A further meeting is to be arranged with the wider stake holders.

We need to prepare a master plan of what is possible and what is not possible if the L shape plan goes ahead.

Other general points:

* **Faulty catch on the gate (HH).** This has been repaired.
* **Number of pieces of play equipment to be replaced and number of pieces which can be incorporated (HH).** Deferred until a later meeting.
* **Possible funding to cover costs of plans, asset transfer, play equipment etc (HH).** Deferred until a later meeting.
* **Trees to be dug out. Will this be done by the Council? (HH).** Deferred until a later meeting.
* **Sensory garden in the toddler play area, type, and plan (CJ).** Deferred until a later meeting.
* **Up-date regarding donation and help from Adam Brown.** Deferred until a later meeting.

**7. Up-date on annual report:** Deferred until a later meeting.

**8. Up-date on Gift Aid application:** Caroline has received some paperwork from HMRC although she has not, as yet, done anything with this.

**9. Up-date on Land of Oak and Iron:** Helen is working on this, however, she asked members of the meeting to consider alternative potential sites for the installation.

**10. Co-op fund:** Our application has been submitted. The results will be announced in October.

**11. Up-date on Business plan:** Refer to agenda item 6.

**12. Expression of interest from Lane Head Pub:** Refer to agenda item 6.

**13. Bins for Greenside Folly (CJ).** Deferred until a later meeting.

**14. Litter Pickers (CJ).** Caroline informed the meeting that most of our litter pickers have been given out to members of the community and that we need to buy more. Everyone agreed to the purchase of a further supply.

**15. Seat on Bradley Fell Road (BW).** It was agreed, due to the request made by the Police, that we would move this seat. Barbara will contact the council, who installed this, for advice on how we move it. **BW to e-mail.**

**16. A.O.B.**

* Ruth asked for ‘organised litter picks’ to be put on a future agenda, suggesting we need a plan as to how they can take place from September onwards.
* Ruth informed the meeting that John Holmes will maintain the flower bed at The Folly.
* Ruth did say that the Memorial Garden in Greenside is looking nice.

**17. Date and time of next meeting:** Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 11.30 a.m. via ZOOM.