

**TRUSTEES MEETING**

**11.30 a.m. on Wednesday 25th November 2020**

**via ZOOM**

**M I N U T E S**

**1. Present:** Helen Haran, Barbara Williams (Chair), Caroline James, Stuart Lowerson, Mo Forster (minutes).

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

**3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 21st October 2020:** Amendments were made to item 9 – Christmas Lights, the amended minutes were circulated. They are now agreed to be 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. Matters arising (which are not on the main agenda):**

1. **Seat at Bradley Fell Road.** Caroline confirmed the V.A.T. has now been refunded.
2. **Potential Trustee - Helen Parker.** Initial contact has been made today.
3. **Angel Award, date, and time for presentation:** The award has been presented; it was agreed to display this in Crawcrook Library.
4. **Litter Picks in Woodside:** Stuart informed the meeting that he has recruited a volunteer, Christine, who is taking on responsibility for this area. Stuart has also been successful in recruiting other volunteers to litter pick in specific areas, Janet and Trevor included. It was agreed that it is working better having a network of volunteers as against the group litter picks which we had previously.
5. **Gardening Angels:** Angela’s details have been added to our members’ database, Caroline is going to obtain Christine’s details and pass them on to Mo. **(CJ to action).**
6. **Barrier Boxes:** It is thought that Judy is sorting these out. Barbara will contact Judy for an update. **(BW to action).**

**6. Resignation of two trustees:**  The resignation of both Ruth Barker and Margaret Laraway was formally noted.

**7. Finance Report:** The Treasurer, Caroline James, provided the following update.

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| **Restricted Funds** | **Received** | **Spent** | **Balance** |
| Co-op | £5,709.00 | £2,604.83 | £3,104.17 |
| Work to Crawcrook Park – Match Fund | £6,000.00 |  | £6,000.00 |
| Lights | £1,412.70 |  | £1,412.70 |
| Land of Oak & Iron (£2k grant +£2k match) | £4,000.00 |  | £4,000.00 |
| Eventbrite | £464.30 | £464.30 | - |
|  |  |  | **£14,516.87** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Unrestricted Funds** |  |  | **£360.34** |

It was agreed our fundraising page should be circulated more often and on a number of sites in order to attract more donations. Barbara agreed she would do this. **(BW to action).**

**8.** **Calendar of events:** This has been updated in readiness for 2021. It was agreed this will be a standard agenda item at all future meetings, in order to keep us focussed on activities.

**9. Up-date on Crawcrook Park:**

* **Masterplan.** Helen informed the meeting that the council have said they will not produce the masterplan, however, they have said they might be able to pay Graham McDarby to produce this. Helen has also spoken with Kyle Parker who is producing drawings, she is currently awaiting receipt of these.
* **Hedge Planting.** Caroline has two volunteers, Gill, and Janet, who have offered to help with the hedge planting. Barbara will arrange to meet up to discuss this with them. **(BW to action).**  The planting needs to take place before Christmas.
* **The Gate**. Helen has reported this to the council and requested a replacement.
* **Anti-social behaviour.** Helen asked if someone from OV could send a letter to the Inspector to say, as an organisation, the issue of ASB is of concern to us. Barbara agreed to do this. **(BW to action).**
* **Broken windows at the bus stop.** The police are asking Helen for names. It was proposed we approach the Fox and Hounds to see if they have the incident recorded on their CCTV. Stuart suggested he speaks with Nexus to ask if they have done anything about it. **(SL to action).** Caroline confirmed she had reported this to the police both verbally and via the website.

**10. Land of Oak and Iron:** Helen has a chair design. She has also obtained further quotes for the interpretation board. She has provided photos (produced by Stuart) and the relevant information (provided by Judy) and she is awaiting final costs, but it is thought this will come in at around £2,000.

**11. Christmas Lights:** They are up and looking really nice and so too does the tree. Barmoor were given two sets of good lights, however, for reasons unknown they have been cut and therefore cannot be used.

**12. Climate alliance in Gateshead:** Gill Briggs has joined; she will join the Zoom meeting with Liz Twist. Gill has agreed to give updates to future trustee meetings, either in report form or by joining at a prearranged time. Caroline reported that at the last meeting it was suggested that one out of three councillors should become a champion for climate change for the area. She agreed to contact our three councillors to see who would like to volunteer. **(CJ to action).**

**13. Gardening Army:** It was suggested that a gardening army be set up the same way in which the litter pick network is now working. Barbara will speak with Judy about this idea. **(BW to action).**

**14. John Holmes:** John is the new volunteer in Greenside. He has said he needs plants. Barbara is to contact him to ask him to submit a list of what he wants and how much it will cost. Trustees can then look to approve this and if John is willing to purchase these then he will be reimbursed. **(BW to action).**

**15. Munki Computer Help:** It was agreed Caroline would speak with Julie to ask if she could make use of Warren’s skills. **(CJ to action).** Once this has been established Caroline will speak with Barbara who, in turn, will contact Warren to discuss this further. **(BW to action).**

**16. Complaint about updating the website:** The issues were discussed. Helen has agreed to go and see Ann. **(HH to action).**

**17. Full public meeting via Zoom?** Comments received suggest people are no longer aware of what is going on, as members meetings are not taking place due to Covid-19 and the social distancing regulations. It was agreed that the idea of a full public meeting, via Zoom, would not be without its difficulties and that an e-newsletter might be a better way to proceed. Barbara agreed to put information together to circulate it to trustees for comment, then it could be emailed to all members. **(BW to action).**

**18. A.O.B.:**

* **Christmas Window Competition.** Caroline confirmed she has sent a letter out to everyone. She and Barbara will get together to take this forward. **(CJ/BW to action).**

**19. Date and time of next meeting:** Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 10.30 a.m. via Zoom.