

Minutes of a Meeting of Mid Sussex District Council Charity Trustees held on 27 September from 6.45 pm to 6.55 pm.

Present:

Councillor Bruce Forbes (Chairman)
Councillor Phillip Coote* (Vice-Chairman)

Jonathan Ash-Edwards	Steven Hansford*	Pru Moore
Andrew Barrett-Miles	Sue Hatton	Howard Munding
Edward Belsey*	Ginny Heard	Kirsty Page
John Belsey	Chris Hersey	Geoff Rawlinson
Margaret Belsey*	Margaret Hersey	Peter Reed
Liz Bennett	Colin Holden	Robert Salisbury
Michelle Binks	Anne Jones MBE	Linda Stockwell
Anne Boutrup*	Jim Knight*	Dick Sweatman
Pete Bradbury	Jacqui Landriani	Mandy Thomas-Atkin
Heidi Brunsdon*	Andrew Lea	Colin Trumble*
Cherry Catharine*	Anthea Lea	Neville Walker*
Richard Cherry	Judy Llewellyn-Burke	Garry Wall
Rod Clarke	Andrew MacNaughton	Anthony Watts Williams*
Ruth de Mierre	Gordon Marples	Norman Webster
Tony Dorey*	Gary Marsh	John Wilkinson
David Dorking*	Edward Matthews	Peter Wyan
Sandy Ellis	Norman Mockford	
Claire Fussell*		

*Absent

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor M. Hersey nominated Councillor Forbes as Chairman of the Committee for the 2017/2018 Council year. This was seconded by Councillor Wall and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

That:

Councillor Bruce Forbes is elected as Chairman of the Committee for the 2017/2018 year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Forbes nominated Councillor Coote as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the 2017/2018 Council year and this appointment was agreed.

RESOLVED

That:

Councillor Phillip Coote is appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the 2017/2018 year.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman confirmed that item 7 was withdrawn from the agenda.

Councillors De Mierre and Ellis declared personal interests in respect of item 6, Council Charitable Land - Annual Operational Report. Both are representatives on the Beech Hurst Steering Group.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

6. Council Charitable Land – Annual Operational Report.

The Solicitor to the Council outlined the recommendations found on page 12 and 13 of the report. A Member praised the work done to provide more informative accounts. Regarding capital expenditure he noted that the restaurant at Beech Hurst had been transformational, but raised concern to the learning centre and art trail and their ability to generate income.

A Member needed clarification on whether the Bella's Pantry referenced in 2.2.12 was the same as mentioned at the top of the page. This is clarified by the Council's Solicitor as being the same.

The Head of Corporate Resources was asked by a Member about the income of the Beech Hurst café and specifically the outstanding £132,000 debtors. The Officer said that he would provide a written response to all Members.

A Member referred to the financial viability of tenants, although they seem viable and trading well the Member wanted to know if there was way for the Council to make sure that the tenants business continues to be viable and fits the spirit of the area. The Solicitor to the Council explained that they were looking at longer lease arrangements with break clauses in place which should cut down on costs associated with renegotiation of new leases over time.

A Member queried the difference between a registered and unregistered charity and the Solicitor responded that there was no difference in terms of submitting accounts. The unregistered Charities are currently undergoing the registration process.

The Chairman took the Members to the recommendations which were unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED

That the Charity Trustees:

- (1) Noted and agreed the contents of this report and approve the Charities' Accounts for 2016/2017;
- (2) Approved the proposals set out in the report in respect of the following specific charities:
 - (a) Beech Hurst Gardens:
 - (i) To undertake capital works to replace old bathrooms, toilets and kitchens on the remaining 4 cottages at Beech Hurst and to expend up to £25,000 from the Charity's reserves.

- (ii) To report back to a future meeting of the Trustees on specific detailed terms about the proposed art trail at Beech Hurst.
- (iii) To import soil to grade the bank from the picnic lawn to the adjacent amenity area at Beech Hurst as a means of unifying both locations to increase casual recreation and to expend up to £6,000 from the charity's reserves.
- (iv) To report back to a future meeting of the Trustees on the project to create a mini arboretum with the intention of educating people about where plants come from, how they came to be here, brief story of the plant hunters & climate change awareness and to expend up to £20,000 from the Charity's reserves.
- (v) To spend up to £8000 to upgrade the water irrigation tank for the Bowling Club.

(b) West Common

To report back to a future meeting of the Trustees on specific detailed terms for the development of a "bee friendly" wild flower area to be established in spring 2018.

(c) St John's Park

To undertake capital improvements to the windows and doors of the pavilion to ensure that the pavilion is vandal proof and to expend up to £3,685 from the Charity's reserves.

Chairman.