

## Minutes of a Meeting of Mid Sussex District Council Charity Trustees held on 20th July 2011 from 6.45 p.m. to 7.07 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors:

Jonathan Ash-Edwards*	Bruce Forbes	Gary Marsh
Simon Banham	Richard Goddard*	Peter Martin
Stephen Barnett	Susan Hatton	Edward Matthews
Andrew Barrett-Miles*	Ginny Heard	Simon McMenemy
Richard Bates	Christopher Hersey	Pru Moore
Edward Belsey	Margaret Hersey	John O'Brien*
Margaret Belsey*	Catrin Ingham	Peter Reed
Liz Bennett	Anne Jones	Robert Salisbury*
Katy Bourne	Denis Jones	Susan Seward
Heidi Brunsdon*	Graham Knight	Ian Simpson*
Jack Callaghan*	Jim Knight	Christopher Snowling
Cherry Catharine	Jacqui Landriani	Dick Sweatman
Phillip Coote*	Andrew Lea	Mandy Thomas-Atkin
Mims Davies	Mike Livesey	Colin Trumble
John de Mierre	Andrew MacNaughton	Neville Walker*
David Dorking	Bob Mainstone	Garry Wall
Kathleen Dumbovic	Natalie March	Norman Webster
Tim Farmer	Gordon Marples	Emily White

\*Absent

### 1. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

#### RESOLVED

That Councillor Thomas-Atkin be elected Chairman of the Charity Trustees for 2011/12.

### 2. APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRMAN

#### RESOLVED

That Councillor Marples be appointed Vice Chairman of the Charity Trustees for 2011/12.

### 3. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

## 5. COUNCIL CHARITABLE LAND – OPERATIONAL REPORT

Council received a report on the operational activities of the Charities managed by the Council and a statement of each charity's financial affairs for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

The Leader of the Council asked, for the benefit of new Members, for an explanation on the structure of the report. Why there is not a wider scrutiny report; the role of Members as Trustees; Members' liability; NNDR assessments; the difference between various incomes; accrued assets of the Council and whether the audit fees, when totalled, represent good value.

The Solicitor to the Council explained that Members are Trustees of the Charity because they are elected Members and their liability is covered by insurance. He also explained there is no separate role from the Council with regard to scrutiny.

The Head of Finance, ICT and HR confirmed that the NNDR rating is correct and the figures remain stable. He also explained why interest accrued on charitable balances are not kept solely for the charity.

He also explained that the Audit Committee are responsible for looking at the Council's affairs. He referred Members to the Charity Commission website where, more in depth detail could be found.

A Member commended Officers on the work that had been done. He had visited the Charity Commission's website and the Council's record over the last few years was exemplary, He urged all Members to visit the Commission's website and referred to two specific documents which they may find useful. The first being a Councillor guide to the Councillors role and one other document which referred to setting up a Sub-Committee to monitor the work of the Charity Trustees.

The Solicitor to the Council confirmed that it would be possible to set up a Sub-Committee to monitor the work of the Charity Trustees, and added that there would other charity reports coming before Members in the near future.

One Member, although having no problem with the setting up a Sub-Committee, asked who would bear the cost. The Solicitor to the Council confirmed that the cost would fall to the Council. The Leader of the Council urged caution in setting up ad-hoc Working Groups as they take up both Member and Officer time and result in additional costs to the Council.

### RESOLVED

That:-

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) the actions taken be ratified; and
- (3) the Charities' Accounts for 2010/11 be approved.

Chairman.