

Minutes of a Meeting of Mid Sussex District Council Charity Trustees held on 22nd July 2015 from 6.45 pm to 6.55 pm.

Present:

Councillor Peter Reed (Chairman)
Councillor Bruce Forbes (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors

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

*Absent

Tom Clark, Solicitor to the Council presiding over the meeting

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Bruce Forbes nominated Councillor Peter Reed to be elected as Chairman of Charity Trustees for 2015/16. This was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Peter Reed be elected Chairman of the Charity Trustees for 2015/16.

Councillor Peter Reed took the chair

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Bruce Forbes was nominated as Vice-Chairman of Charity Trustees for 2015/16 by the Chairman of the Charity Trustees. This was seconded and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Bruce Forbes be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Charity Trustees for 2015/16.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

6. COUNCIL CHARITABLE LAND - ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT

The Solicitor to the Council introduced the report explaining that this was an annual report which the Trustees considered before the accounts were submitted to the Charity Commission and that he was happy to answer any questions.

One Member asked a series of clarification questions relating to Beech Hurst Gardens and queried whether it was viable for the Council to fund a museum as it is typically not an income generating venture. He also asked about the figures in the accounts and asked why income had fallen 20% from the previous year and why there was a significant increase in maintenance and NDR and why the Council was liable to pay this.

The Solicitor to the Council advised that the Council were starting exploratory work on the museum and that there is some Section 106 money available for such a purpose. He advised that once further work has been done to explore all options this would return to the Trustees for consideration. The Solicitor to the Council advised that the accounts refer to the income accrued from not only the restaurant but also the Garden Cottages. The reason for the shortfall in income for 2014/15 is that two of these properties were vacant and one needed extensive maintenance. He advised that the Council had been liable to pay Council Tax on these properties whilst they remained vacant but informed Trustees that these properties were now let.

One Member asked for clarification on paragraph 2.2.13 concerning the development of the pathway from Age UK properties through the Beech Hurst Gardens. The Solicitor to the Council confirmed that Age UK would pay for the new pathway but that the Council would put in the pathway to ensure it met the Council's requirements for the Gardens.

The Member asked a final question on the decrease in income for Richard Worsley Recreation Ground and stated that there was no narrative on these changes in the report and asked that in future officers provide more information on such matters. The Solicitor to the Council advised that in December 2013 the Charity Trustees had authorised a lease for a pavilion and tennis courts and that the work on these had not been completed until July 2015. This meant that the Council had not been collecting income during this time but advised that the Council is once again receiving income from this asset and all back income had been received and this would be reflected in next years' accounts.

Another Member noted a clerical error in the report on page 5 on the list of Charity Trustees in that his name had been omitted and another Trustee noted twice.

A question on Brooklands Park was raised by one Member, who sought clarification as to whether this would now be listed as charitable land. This was confirmed by the Solicitor to the Council.

One Member welcomed the recommendations for Ashurst Wood Recreation Ground as residents were very keen to see these improvements. He noted that the Parish Council had now agreed to award £10,000 for the works and urged Trustees to agree as landowners.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman took Trustees to the recommendations which were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That:

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) the Charities' Accounts for 2014/15 be approved; and
- (3) the specific recommendations in the report be approved.

Chairman.