

Minutes of a Meeting of Mid Sussex District Council Charity Trustees held on 20 April 2016 from 6.45 pm to 6.52 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

7. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

10. BEECH HURST GARDENS CHARITABLE TRUST, HAYWARDS HEATH, WEST SUSSEX (CHARITY NUMBER 305202) – WORKS TO ENHANCE THE COTTAGES AT NO.1 AND NO.5 BEECH HURST COTTAGES IN BEECH HURST GARDENS

A Member stated that he had met with the Assistant Chief Executive and two members of the new asset management team in order to clarify some issues raised in the report. Two properties require updating, Nos 1 and 5. One property has two bedrooms and the other has three bedrooms.

These cottages have been undermanaged, so no rental income has been received for twelve months. They are presently substandard and unlettable. Council tax remains payable so total loss of income to the trust is circa £25,000 per annum.

The Member expressed that in his opinion, this was not an acceptable situation, but that he was satisfied that the new team are getting to grips by providing professional know-how and experience.

With regards to the report, point 1.6 on page 6 is seeking £500 for each of the five cottages, not merely Nos 1 and 5. In relation to point 2.3, competitive detailed estimates from known contractors are in hand. Rewiring is not required but existing electrical facilities need to be extended and renewed. If approved, the cottages could be ready for occupation towards the end of May. Following liaison with our housing needs team; a family of five has been identified and would move in on completion of the works.

The condition of the three other cottages is satisfactory and they are of course let. To reflect earlier comments, recommendation 7.1 (iii) requires amendment for the sake of clarity. It is suggested that the words "for each property" be substituted by "for each of the five properties at Beech Hurst Cottages". The Member went on to suggest that the contingency may need to be revisited to keep the cottages in good condition and to ensure that these valuable trust assets are productive.

As there were no more Members wishing to speak, the Chairman took the meeting to the recommendation which was agreed with the revised wording in recommendation (3).

RESOLVED

That the Charity Trustees

- (1) note the contents of the report;
- (2) approve a capital expenditure budget of £26,613.71 for the refurbishment of the cottages; and
- (3) approve a reactive budget of £500 for each property, to cover any necessary emergency and reactive repairs.

Chairman.