

EAST GRINSTEAD MEMORIAL ESTATE LTD

Registered Charity No. 305211 Company No. 468425

MINUTES**DIRECTORS MEETING 04/2017**

7pm, Wednesday 22nd November 2017
Chequer Mead Community Arts Centre,
De La Warr Rd, East Grinstead, RH19 3BS

1. Present
 - 1.1. Nunn, Hayman, Baker, Russell, Graysmark, Thurlow, Phillips, Fisher, Stagg
2. Apologies for Absence
 - 2.1. Yeoman, Sweatman, Funnell, Davis
3. Minutes of previous Directors Meeting 03/2017, 19th July 2017
 - 3.1. These were approved as being a true record of the meeting. The Chairman would sign them (and redact as necessary), and post on the web site for members to view, and also in the document archive.
4. Matters arising from Meeting 03/2017 not covered elsewhere
 - 4.1. The temporary Company, originally called East Grinstead Memorial Estate Ltd, and formed to protect the name during the changeover, has now been closed.
 - 4.2. When disseminating our new Articles of Association it became apparent that we had inadvertently fallen foul of the Charity Commission's requirements. It turns out that we should have gained prior approval on (a) our new Objects, (b) our clause on trustee payments & conflicts of interest, and (c) our clause on dissolution, before putting them to the Members. We have now submitted our wording to them, and have gained retrospective approval on the new Objects and are awaiting a response of the other items. We are not anticipating any problems as our new clauses are pretty standard. We will have to go back to the Members for approval at the next AGM when the CC are satisfied.
5. Membership
 - 5.1. Two applications from Steve Rogers of 11, Fulmar Drive and Matthew Brown of 19, Mindelheim Avenue were confirmed by the meeting.
 - 5.2. Seven members had offered their resignations. Eassom 465, Parking 591, Manning 450, Shuttleworth 336, Leaver 363, Barrett 385 and Clark 613. The last gentleman kindly sent us a £10 donation.
 - 5.3. In addition, Tanya Hayman indicated that she would be resigning as a Director and Member of EGMEL, and as Chairman of Ashplats Conservation Group, at the end of the year. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked Tanya for all her input and efforts over 22 years with EGMEL, and 20 years with ACG.
 - 5.4. The Member Mojo subscription system has been tested and tweaked accordingly. Emails would be going out to members in early December. We anticipate that this might precipitate significant resignations/apathy but those who do pay will have demonstrated a positive interest.
 - 5.5. It was agreed that the new money raised from subscriptions, after covering the costs of managing the membership, should be ring-fenced and used in our grant programme. ND has already arranged for it to be held in a separate account at Lloyds.
6. East Court Steering Meeting

- 6.1. As agreed at our 03/2017 meeting, conversations had been held with Councillors at both MSDC and EGTC about the unsatisfactory service provided by the MSDC Landscapes Team. This had resulted in a one-to-one meeting between CN and David Terry, the head of Landscapes. DT's tone at this meeting was ultra conciliatory with a significantly better response promised in future.
- 6.2. CN listed many outstanding issues to DT but was particularly concerned about (a) transparency and visibility of the SANG funding stream, (b) overdue surfacing improvements to the grassed parts of the circular SANG route, and (c) an improved plan for coppicing in the forthcoming winter which would overcome the problems associated with last winters effort.
- 6.3. An East Court Steering Meeting is scheduled at MSDC on 27th November and DT has suggested quarterly one-to-one meetings with CN throughout 2018 to get matters back on track. PT to replace TH as our 2nd official representative on the Steering Group in 2018.
- 6.4. Parkrun weekly runs seem to be getting good support but there has been some feedback about damage to the grass. MSDC are monitoring this. In addition there has been an informal discussion about re-opening an old path to the Football Club where they have refreshments afterwards.

7. Finances

- 7.1. ND submitted a written report in his absence: Rathbones valuation as of 21.11.2017 £620,014. Current yield on investment is 2.3% against predicted 2.4%. Estimate Full year income base on yield - £14.4k. Valuation compares against Sept 2016 valuation of £570.00. Current portfolio is +8.7% in real terms year on year.

8. Property

8.1. Lodge

- 8.1.1. Agreed to increase rent [REDACTED] (SB)
- 8.1.2. Bens Gutters to be told they can no longer store their stuff there (SB)
- 8.1.3. SB to look again at the Hollies near the back door to see if any more removal is necessary.

8.2. EGTC now have Title of the Estate Rd and we have agreed a protocol for occasional closures.

8.3. EGTC have paid their rent

8.4. EGTC have requested that we cut back Leylandii adjacent to their pitch but we believe they are on their ground, and their responsibility (CN)

8.5. MF wanted to discuss the fencing on the PROW adjacent to Estcots. In his absence this will be brought forward to the next meeting

9. Grants & Donations

9.1. LG/CR are keen to support Sackville and Imberhorne History departments re curriculum works on battlefields. Agreed that this was a good thing.

9.2. LG/CR to present a paper for approval at the next meeting with grant list. General consensus that we could afford to increase the total next year

9.3. GS suggested that we reconsider our previous decision to cease funding of SSAFA. This suggestion to be considered when LG/CR present their plan.

9.4. TH said that ACG might need more significant help in 2018 as her personal chainsaw would no longer be available.

10. Neighbours

10.1. PT had updated our database on all our neighbours

10.2. One neighbour had suggested that they had checked the position of their replacement fence with one of the Councils. All agreed that this was nothing to do with any of the Councils.

10.3. Newsletter to go out next Spring (PT/CN)

11. Projects

11.1. No EGMEL projects ongoing at this time

11.2. ACG though are talking to MSDC about building a dog agility course (near Owl Way) and setting up a compound next to their Container to offer logs (from coppicing) for donations

12. Insurance

12.1. All up to date. Indemnity policy just renewed.

13. Website & Publicity

13.1. New logo finalised and launched.

13.2. Migration to egmel now completed.

14. Archives [CN]

14.1. CN has now scanned A-C and uploaded it to Google Drive.

15. Any Other Business

15.1. There is no direct replacement for TH as Chairman of ACG as yet.

15.2. LG would co-ordinate the wreaths for Remembrance Day in future.

16. Dates of Subsequent Meetings

16.1. Directors Meeting 04/2017, Wednesday March 14th 2018, Chequer Mead.

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