

EAST GRINSTEAD MEMORIAL ESTATE LTD

Registered Charity No. 305211 Company No. 468425

MINUTES**DIRECTORS MEETING 01/2019**

7pm, Wednesday 27th February 2019
Chequer Mead Community Arts Centre,
De La Warr Rd, East Grinstead, RH19 3B4

1. Present
 - 1.1. Nunn, Russell, Thurlow, Phillips, Fisher, Davis, Baker, Graysmark
2. Apologies for Absence
 - 2.1. Stagg, Sweatman, Yeoman, Funnell
3. Minutes of previous Directors Meeting 04/2018, 12th December 2018
 - 3.1. The draft Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record. 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. [CN]
4. Matters arising from Meeting 04/2018 not covered elsewhere.
 - 4.1. None.
5. Membership.
 - 5.1. 68 members had renewed at the end of 2018 - down from 92 the previous year.
 - 5.2. A membership application from Laura Stockwood of 71, Fulmar Drive, was approved [CN]
 - 5.3. The next newsletters would go out on/around 1st April [CN]
6. East Court Steering Meeting
 - 6.1. The resurfacing of the northern part of the McIndoe track, including the construction of a stepped walkway down to the stream, was finished in January and has been very well received by locals. Prior to this, this path was one of the muddiest in the wood, and now "was a delight to walk on" according to anecdotal evidence. We have not yet been sent a bill from MSDC for our promised £2k contribution. The project had attracted extensive publicity of the EG Facebook page and, we believe, will be highlighted by MSDC in the forthcoming "Mid Sussex Matters"
 - 6.2. SW tells us that 2 crescent-shaped areas on grass (each 70 x 25m), either side of the lawns sloping down from the mansion, will be left un-mown to encourage wild flowers as per the Management Plan.
 - 6.3. Disappointingly, on other matters (e.g Holtye Track resurfacing and the Woodland management contract) we have received no updates, but expect further news when GS returns from illness. CN will chase.
 - 6.4. Next East Court Steering Meetings
 - 6.4.1. Wed May 15th 10am Walkabout
 - 6.4.2. Tues Dec 3rd, meeting at MSDC
7. Finances
 - 7.1. ND has met the accountants and expects to have the accounts ready for our meeting on May 15th for the Board to sign off.
 - 7.2. Investment portfolio continues hit by Brexit uncertainty with Sept-Dec valuation down 7%. It continues to yield about 2.5% though. ND has invited Charles Wilcox of Rathbones to attend our AGM to enlighten our members how our money is invested.

7.3. Our current account stands fairly steady at £17k.

8. Property

8.1. The Lodge

8.1.1. After a disappointing delay, the sub-committee, comprising CN (Chair), CR, MP & SB, had received the independent valuation from Graves Jenkins who valued the Lodge at £380k, but added that being different from the norm, and at a time of high uncertainty because of Brexit, this may be difficult to achieve.

8.1.2. Three local agents were approached to market the property:

8.1.2.1. Coles failed to come back with a response

8.1.2.2. Mansell McTaggart suggested marketing it at £400k, and would charge 1% commission

8.1.2.3. Garnham Bewley suggested marketing it at £420k, with a £400k expectation. They would charge 0.7% commission. They also demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm and energy for the project, and as a result the sub-committee selected them to market the property.

8.1.3. A positive interest was shown by 2 buyers who were played off against each other. A cash offer of £380k from a Ms Upton was eventually accepted being in line with the Graves Jenkins valuation. This offer was conditional on “no bartering” after any survey.

8.1.4. Mayo Wynne Baxter have been instructed to handle the sale on our behalf, with completion possibly around the end of April.

8.2. Football Club

8.2.1. With the loss of the Speed Awareness Course, and two major sponsors (Rydon & GAC), EGTFC has been making losses for the last 3 years. They have asked permission to conclude a car parking arrangement with The Caravan Club, which we have agreed to. MP is ensuring appropriate documentation.

8.2.2. EGTFC had requested permission to fly a drone over their pitch on March 9th when they would be hosting Richmond Sausages fan promotion, in conjunction with Harry Rednap and Hayley McQueen (SKY TV). This was approved (subject to regulations etc)

8.3. Grants and Donations

8.3.1. CR had met the headmasters of Imberhorne and Sackville schools and had heard that many pupils are being excluded from extracurricular activities because of family poverty. He recommended that again we donate £6k to each schools discretionary Headmasters fund, for them to use as they see fit, to assist disadvantaged children. This was unanimously agreed by the Directors.

8.3.2. CR had also met EG Foodbank who continue to provide an essential service to deprived families in and around EG and suggested we donate £3k to this cause. The Directors though were not so sure about this and it was agreed that CR would try and arrange a visit when we could learn more.

8.3.3. Smaller donations of £750 each were agreed for EG Tadpoles swimming club (for the disabled) and EG Association for Mental Health.

8.3.4. A request from “Christians against Poverty” for assistance was regrettably turned down.

8.3.5. Concern was expressed about the health of the Football Club but it was suggested that they probably need more support than we could provide.

9. Neighbours

9.1. PT will soon be carrying out the annual check to see which neighbouring properties had changed hands in the last 12 months. He would then visit and introduce EGMEL.

9.2. PT would be “walking the boundary” in April.

10. Insurances

10.1. Nothing to report

11. Website and Publicity

11.1. One new item added to "Latest news": 8/1 McIndoe path

12. Archives

12.1. SB has informed us that there is a large file on the Holtje Track that needs archiving. AF to sift prior to CN scanning?

13. Any Other Business

13.1. None

14. Dates of Subsequent Meetings

14.1. Directors Meeting: Wednesday 15th May 2019 at Chequer Mead.

14.2. AGM, Wednesday 26th June 2109 at Chequer Mead

14.2.1. LG regretted that she was too busy at work to take over the Chair this year but would stay as Vice Chair. All present said they were happy to continue as Directors at the AGM

15. Meeting Closed

15.1. There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8:17pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly 'Anna', written over a horizontal line.