

**EAST GRINSTEAD MEMORIAL ESTATE LTD**

Registered Charity No. 305211 Company No. 468425

**MINUTES****DIRECTORS MEETING 02/2019**

7pm, Wednesday 15th May 2019

Chequer Mead Community Arts Centre,  
De La Warr Rd, East Grinstead, RH19 3B4

1. Present
  - 1.1. Nunn, Thurlow, Fisher, Davis, Baker, Graysmark, Sweatman, Yeoman,
2. Apologies for Absence
  - 2.1. Stagg, Funnell, Russell, Phillips
3. Minutes of previous Directors Meeting 01/2019, 27th February 2019
  - 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 upload to the document archive. [CN]
4. Matters arising from Meeting 01/2019 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 [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Fulmar Drive, was previously approved but [REDACTED] has not paid yet. PT to follow up.
  - 5.3. A Newsletter had gone out on 1st April with no feedback either way. The next newsletter would go out on/around 1st August [CN]
6. East Court Steering Meeting
  - 6.1. The scheduled walkabout meeting with MSDC earlier that day had been rather poorly attended, but nevertheless was useful. It seems that there has been a knock-on effect from the near-tragic fallen tree incident in Haywards Heath earlier in the year, which has impacted the departments capabilities.
  - 6.2. The project to appoint a Woodland Forestry company had also been affected by the loss of the main contact in that company with no new Management Plan on the horizon yet.
  - 6.3. Whilst the technical spec for the new surfacing along the Holtye Track was coming on well the project is being impacted by 6.1 and 6.2 above as well as the legal team being diverted to run multiple elections. CN and DS would chase the legal team.
  - 6.4. The possible surfacing other footpaths in the woods was discussed during the walkabout and it was generally agreed that currently (and with the Holtye track in the future) there are enough "all-weather" paths, and surfacing any more would turn the woods into a "park" rather than an ancient woodland. This can always be reviewed at a later date.
  - 6.5. The new height barrier and associated bollards are now operational near the ambulance station.
  - 6.6. A Green Flag assessment of the Estate, driven by MSDC, was recently carried out, with the result expected in late July.
  - 6.7. MSDC say they plan to tackle the invasives in the Yew Hedge in Q4.
  - 6.8. A survey is being carried out to see if a badger family can be relocated from the "cemetery ground". Agreed to give this no publicity.

- 6.9. MSDC rangers are replacing old “no motorbike” signs.
- 6.10. EG Meads FC have been put in touch with MSDC as they have expressed an interest in running more football at East Court.
- 6.11. A small fire in the woods recently had precipitated some discussion on access and locks. It was not deemed necessary to make any changes to current arrangements.
- 6.12. One of the bridges had recently been repaired
- 6.13. The new grass cutting regime was now in place. MF is monitoring species.
- 6.14. We are going to suggest to MSDC an extra dog poo bin at Lancaster Drive [CN]
- 6.15. We have been in contact with MSDC about a large green tent erected in Ashplats Wood. [20th May update - this has now been cleared away]
- 6.16. NEXT EAST COURT STEERING MEETINGS
  - 6.16.1. Tues Dec 3rd, meeting at MSDC. LG to attend as CN likely to be away.

## 7. Finances

- 7.1. Unfortunately it had not been possible to have the 2018 accounts ready for sign-off at this meeting. ND to chase.
- 7.2. Our current accounts have been significantly affected by the double whammy of no rent from The Lodge whilst now carrying all the costs, and still paying out grants. Our balance historically stood around the £17k mark, but is now down to £5k. Whilst this gave no cause for alarm it was decided to hold back on any further grants in 2018 until the sale of The Lodge had been completed.
- 7.3. Our Investment portfolio had strengthened in recent months despite the Brexit uncertainty.
- 7.4. ND has invited Charles Wilcox of Rathbones to attend our AGM to enlighten our members how our money is invested.

## 8. Property

### 8.1. The Lodge

- 8.1.1. Completion of the sale of The Lodge was taking longer than expected. No impediments were apparent - the tardiness of the buyers solicitors being blamed for the delay.

### 8.2. Football Club

- 8.2.1. CN had floated an idea to MSDC and EGTFC that (for a fee of maybe £20k from MSDC) EGTFC relinquish some of the unused land they rent from us, and this land is added to MSDC's SANG area. This idea though does not seem to have gained any traction.

### 8.3. Shooting Club

- 8.3.1. EGTSC had invited CN/LG for a chat about their future needs. It seems that their current facilities are not keeping up with the trends in the sport - in particular they need a standing (as opposed to prone) range. They are contemplating a 20 x 13m double-storey extension at right angles to their existing building. They would need security of tenure for 50 years to apply for grants. CN/LG said that we would do all we could to support this concept, and this was confirmed by the Board.

### 8.4. Grants and Donations

- 8.4.1. A recent visit by members of the Board to EG Foodbank had been very positive, although there were some slight concerns about some activities not being within EG. It was agreed in principle to make a £3k donation in 2019, but the cash could not be paid until our bank balance was stronger ( see 7.2 above). LG to inform CR

## 9. Neighbours

- 9.1. PT had carried out his annual check for new neighbours and 4 had been identified. He had visited them all and had been warmly welcomed.

## 10. Insurances

- 10.1. The property insurance (including the unoccupied Lodge) had risen dramatically to £1.1k. This would however be partially redeemed when the sale is completed.
11. Website and Publicity
  - 11.1. One new items added to "Latest news": 2/4 McIndoe Path finished
  - 11.2. 4 items added to Facebook ("reach" figures in parenthesis. High "reach" figures occur when items are shared on the WHIEG page)
    - 11.2.1. 8/3 Grass cutting (4,900)
    - 11.2.2. 29/3 Dig for Victory (2,400)
    - 11.2.3. 20/4 Deer photo (56)
    - 11.2.4. 22/4 Green tent (88)
12. Archives
  - 12.1. 9,700 photo records of papers held at MWB uploaded to our Cloud account
  - 12.2. SB brought in a lever arch file for AF to review before archiving
13. Any Other Business
  - 13.1. Still some concern about Charity Commission and our revised Articles. Their new digital system seems to be the problem.
  - 13.2. Companies House confirmation statement lodged 10/4/19
  - 13.3. Successful litter pick by ACG on 24th April (24 sacks)
  - 13.4. ACG applying for a GCN license so that they can work around the Lake area.
  - 13.5. We've provided EGTC with info on the War memorial and Alfred Wagg for their lecterns
  - 13.6. A member of the public has been concerned about the high attrition rate of ducklings on the Estate.
  - 13.7. The Board unanimously voted their best wishes to Peter and Linda Thurlow who had recently married!
14. Dates of Subsequent Meetings
  - 14.1. AGM, Wednesday 26th June 2109 at Chequer Mead
  - 14.2. Directors Meeting. Wednesday August 21st, 7pm at Chequer Mead
  - 14.3. After the Meeting DS said that if the day of the week was in future changed from a Wednesday he should be able to attend more. Discuss at next meeting.
15. Meeting Closed
  - 15.1. There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8:20pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes. The signature is positioned at the bottom left of the page.