

**EAST GRINSTEAD MEMORIAL ESTATE LTD**

Registered Charity No. 305211 Company No. 468425

**MINUTES****DIRECTORS MEETING 03/2020**

7pm, Thursday 15th October 2020

Held on Zoom web platform

1. Covid-19
  - 1.1. Social distancing is still required, hence this Zoom meeting.
2. Present: Nunn, Fisher, Stagg, Funnell, Russell, Phillips, Davis, Baker, Graysmark, Sweatman, Richards, Barlow
3. Apologies for Absence: None
4. Directors
  - 4.1. CN welcomed Mike Barlow & Lloyd Richards who had put themselves forward as Directors. The Board had unanimously supported their appointments through an e-mail ballot, ending 26th August 2020. These appointments will be put before the Members at the next AGM for confirmation.
5. Minutes of the 71st AGM, 13th August 2020
  - 5.1. The meeting had been held without members attending, due to Covid-19 restrictions.
  - 5.2. All 5 resolutions were passed.
  - 5.3. The meeting agreed the draft Minutes were in order. CN to sign, archive & post on the website.
6. Minutes of previous Directors Meeting 02/2020, 16th July 2020
  - 6.1. The meeting agreed the draft Minutes were in order. CN to sign, redact as necessary, archive, & post on the website.
7. Membership
  - 7.1. Total Membership had risen by 1 to 56 as Lloyd Richards had rejoined.
  - 7.2. CN had yet to modify the application process, and make the first year free, as agreed at the last meeting.
  - 7.3. A members newsletter had gone out on 4th August with no feedback. The next one is due on December 1st.
8. East Court Steering Meeting
  - 8.1. As agreed at the last meeting, CN had again written to MSDC (Rob Anderton) on 17th July expressing concern about lack of dialogue, but 3 months later had received no reply.
  - 8.2. CN had sent the Directors a summary of MSDC obligations and their responses since the lease was signed in September 2014. There had been no Steering Meeting for nearly 2 years and likewise no information on SANG funds and spending. No rent (£1/year) had been paid since the start of the lease. Clearly MSDC aren't fulfilling their SANG obligations although it was recognised that day-to-day management of the Estate was satisfactory.
  - 8.3. The Directors appreciated that MSDC are being inundated with Covid issues, but this issue had started long before that, and could not be allowed to continue indefinitely.
  - 8.4. After some discussion it was agreed that we would form a sub-committee to formulate a plan to re-energise the whole SANG commitment, probably involving approaching MSDC at the highest level. CN stressed that this was not "kicking the ball into the long grass", but clearly a different tack was now needed. LR agreed to head up this sub-committee and CN, MB & LG agreed to join.
  - 8.5. DS (in his Councillor role) volunteered to make approaches to MSDC, but it was agreed that our contact at this juncture needs to be of a more formal nature.

## 9. Grants & Donations

9.1. The grants for 2020 had been paid and “thank you’s” had been received.

9.2. £20k has been put aside for 2021 grants, but it was noted that stresses in financial markets had, and would continue to, impact on our income, probably constraining our ability to make grants in coming years.

9.3. It was acknowledged that Covid 19 issues are putting financial strain on many individuals and families in our area, and the question was raised whether we could help, either directly, or indirectly through another local programme. Would such support though be in line with our Objects? CR/LG to consider as part of the 2021 programme.

## 10. Finances

10.1. ND tabled a summary which showed £7k in our current account, and £20k in our grants account. Most of our bills had been paid for 2020, so our position was satisfactory.

10.2. Recent months had been a roller-coaster for our investments, but ND was pleased to report that our fund at Rathbones currently had recovered, and topped £1m again. Dividends from the fund however had been significantly affected, with annual income now around £16k as opposed to £22k before Covid.

10.3. Without the Lodge, our annual overhead costs are fairly predictable at ~£5k, so next year we may be only be able to put £11k or so aside for grants.

## 11. Property

11.1. Land adjacent A264 entrance.

11.1.1. 3 dangerous trees had been cut down and vegetation encroaching onto the pavement near the pedestrian entrance was cut back over the pavement (cost = £2,316). 15m of damaged and potentially dangerous metal fencing had been removed (cost = £300)

11.1.2. Insurance has been changed to include Public liability for this area.

11.1.3. CN had made a diary note to inspect the area annually

11.1.4. EGTC may have an interest in “looking after” this land but there was no appetite for offering it for sale/lease. Not only would we lose control of it, but it would have to be professionally valued (Charities Act) and costs would be high. We might be more receptive though to an agreement to offer it on license for EGTC to manage. Agreed to wait and see if EGTC made an approach to us.

11.2. The Deed of Variation with MSDC over rights to cross the Holtye Track/Stirling Way area, has now been filed at the Land Registry.

## 12. Neighbours

12.1. Nothing to report at this time

## 13. Insurance [GS]

13.1. Our insurers have been informed about the tidying up we have done at the A264 entrance.

## 14. Website & Publicity [CN]

14.1. One News article posted on website: “Tree surgery”

14.2. One posting on Facebook “Warning about tree surgery”. 85 “followers”

14.3. MB has volunteered to assist with running our social media. CN to hand over passwords etc.

## 15. Any Other Business

15.1. Remembrance Day events were being significantly curtailed this year because of Social distancing. LG is procuring wreaths which will be laid by EGTC on our behalf in a pared down ceremony.

## 16. Dates of Subsequent Meetings

16.1. Directors Meeting, Thursday 21st January 2021, 7pm on Zoom platform.

