

EAST GRINSTEAD MEMORIAL ESTATE LTD

Registered Charity No. 305211 Company No. 468425

MINUTES

DIRECTORS MEETING 01/2023

7pm, Tuesday 17th January 2023

Chequer Mead, De La Warr Road,

East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3BS

1. Present:

1.1. Directors: Lloyd Richards, Chris Nunn, Lynn Graysmark, Ann Hacke, Matt Rew, Christian Williams, Christopher Russell, Melvin Phillips, Mike Barlow

1.2. Guests: Mike Funnell

2. Apologies for Absence:

2.1. Directors: Philip Martin

2.2. Guests: Sandy Clark, Kara Mondair

3. Minutes of the previous Directors Meeting 04/2022, 11th October 2022

3.1. The draft Minutes were approved and would be e-signed by LR and posted to the archive and uploaded to our web site after any necessary redaction.

4. MSDC

4.1. A briefing note had been circulated before the meeting summarising two e-meetings held with MSDC to discuss the SANG fund and levels of expenditure. Very little information had been forthcoming, and its becoming increasingly apparent that they don't have a handle on the rising cost of maintenance over the 125 years term, and the inadequacy of the SANG fund.

4.2. They have committed to consult further with their financial people and come back to us by 13th Feb.

4.3. We believe they are giving serious consideration to pass the management over to The Land Trust, and await developments.

4.4. We've informed them that we have now appointed solicitors to review our options and hope this can be seen as a co-operative step, rather than threatening at this time. An initial submission from Blandy is expected next week.

4.5. It was noted that the appointment of Blandy will have to be disclosed to members in the 1st April newsletter.

4.6. In the meantime they did clear the Holtye Track before Christmas as promised, and, now this entrance is opened up we await with interest what winter work they will get carried out (e.g. coppicing and treating Ash dieback)

4.7. No news on when/where boardwalks are proposed yet.

4.8. A response from MSDC on our comments on the DEWP is still awaited.

5. Board Development

5.1. Since the last meeting, the Board had been canvassed online and was unanimous in their support to appoint Philip Martin as a Director. This was duly done on 25th October 2022 and LR had subsequently completed his induction.

5.2. MB informed the Board that he was very heavily loaded in his Foodbank role and was struggling to carry out the necessary maintenance and development of our social media. LR had in mind a possible candidate with extensive IT experience who might join the Board, and it was agreed that he be approached [LR]

6. Governance

- 6.1. CR/LG had submitted a draft Policy document on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- 6.2. AH has previously submitted draft Financial/Treasurer policies.
- 6.3. CN confessed that he was struggling to produce the other documents and it was agreed that CN & LR would meet in coming days to bottom this out before putting all draft before the Board for approval.

7. Grants and Donations

- 7.1. Following a discussion about defibrillators at East Court, it was agreed that LG should approach the Football Club to see if there was a mutual interest.
- 7.2. Our grant budget had been increased from £20k to £30k last year and after extensive discussion on how many people and organisations are struggling at the moment, it was agreed to maintain this increased level in 2023.
- 7.3. CR/LG would circulate our draft MSVA grant advertisement to the Board.
- 7.4. We have adopted a new email address for grants correspondence grants@egmel.co.uk

8. Finances & Insurance

- 8.1. Ann Hacke had distributed a summary before the meeting.
- 8.2. The draft accounts for the end of 2022 showed a £15k operating profit, but it was noted that this had been supported by drawing down £25k funds from selling shares/funds.
- 8.3. Our long-term contact at Brook, our accountants, had left, but we don't expect this to negatively impact our relationship.

9. Membership

- 9.1. CN reported that since the last meeting membership had fallen from 52 to 50.
- 9.2. A newsletter to members had been sent out on 1st December.

10. Property

- 10.1. The EGTSC lease is due for renewal and the Board indicated its willingness to renew at the same rent of £500 p.a. as at present. LR/MP would be meeting with them soon.

11. Neighbours

- 11.1. There was a discussion about some neighbouring land to the east of the estate, but although this is a wildlife connectivity corridor with the wider countryside, in reality we have little influence over it.

12. Website & Publicity

- 12.1. CN/MB had had a meeting with Sandy Clark & Kara Mondair, and a package of improvements of our website had been agreed. Regrettably (see 5.2 above) we have not been able to implement these in full yet.

13. Any other business

- 13.1. After discussion it was agreed that as they are a protected species, we should perhaps not make too much noise about the presence of Dormice in Ashplats Wood.
- 13.2. It has become increasingly apparent that EGTC are less than enthusiastic about us using their address as our Registered address. It was agreed that we would sign up for a third party provider at a cost of £47 p.a. [CN]

14. Dates of Subsequent Meetings

- 14.1. 28th March 2023
- 14.2. 11th July 2023 (AGM + Directors Meeting)
- 14.3. 10th October 2023

