

Minutes from Bishop's Meadow Trust  
Annual General Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Chairpersons Welcoming Address – Lou James

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked all for turning out during such dreadful weather. The chair informed those present that the AGM would, in future, be held during the summer when the weather was likely to be more clement and after the meeting attendees could then walk around the meadows and have further discussions on projects that were taking place and any plans for the future. The date for the next AGM will be the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2020.

Approval of Minutes from the previous AGM

The approval of the minutes was proposed by Jim Munro and seconded by Susan Green.

The Chair then outlined the current ownership status of the Bishop's Meadow: the land is now wholly free of all loans as the Trust has repaid the Overwood Trust. The entire land is managed by the Trust, including the land retained by Sir Ray Tindle. The chair informed the room that a new post of Community Liaison Manager had been created which is being sponsored by her family for two years and that Corin Harrison was in post. This post had been created to mirror the success of the space2grow project and its ability to attract volunteers and groups with the intention of creating greater involvement with the populace through projects on the Meadows.

Treasurers Report – Brian Cox

The treasurer informed those present that the accounts had been greatly simplified. The remaining loan of £41,000 had been repaid using £10,000 from the Trusts accumulated funds and £31,000 from the Overwood Trust. As of March 2019 there was £13,000 in general funds left over. In future the general fund would be used to fund specific projects and two had been identified – the cattle fencing and wild flower plug planting. The Treasurer informed the meeting that £4,500.00 would in future be kept as a contingency fund with the surplus spent on such agreed projects as they arose. This amount was inline with the amount required to be set aside for contingencies by the Charity Commission and would allow the Trust to operate for a year should there be a complete lack of membership monies/grants/donations for 12 months. The Treasurer also informed the meeting that funds had been boosted by 2/3 events with particular mention of the Annual Bridge Tea which had raised over £1,000 and in previous years had raised C£900. Tessa Trench, Susan Green and Meg Daniels were personally thanked by the treasurer with applause from the floor. As relevant income was below the threshold of £15,000, which would require independent third party scrutiny, a saving of C£600.00 had been made which previously had been paid to Branson Adams.

Point of order

Tessa Trench asked whether further funds would be sought from Farnham Buildings Preservation Trust. Jim Munro said this was not an option. The FBPT loan was originally for 25 years and interest free. They also wrote off £11,000 of the outstanding balance so we shall not ask – we certainly wouldn't get it. Furthermore the FBPT had requested, if possible, the early repayment of the loan to fund critical work elsewhere.

The approval of the Treasurers Report was proposed by Mick Franks and Seconded by Isobel Girvan.

## Election of new directors

Mick Frank – has been invited to join the board of directors.

Proposed – Jim Munro

Seconded – Nick Green

Carried unanimously with a show of hands from the floor.

## AOB

Jim Munro (Membership Secretary) - it was brought to the attention of the meeting that the membership of the Bishop's Meadow Trust is beginning to lessen due to ill health and the death of members over time, we need new members. The Chair informed the meeting that Corin Harrison, in his role as Community Liaison Manager, would look to grow the membership through local media, project work and contacts.

Jim also informed the meeting that due to a recent move to Nottingham both himself, and fellow board member Jo Alwyin, would with regret be resigning as board members although he would continue in post as Membership Secretary and both he and Jo would continue to support the Trust and could be called upon for their expertise when required. The Chair thanked Jim and Jo for their valued contribution and the board agreed that Life Membership shall be offered to them and to Ed Partridge who also had resigned earlier in the year.

Susan Green thanked everyone for all their hard work and the Chair thanked Nick Green in particular for his many hours of voluntary work which were invaluable to the Trust.

Corin Harrison and Isobel Girvan gave two short presentations on their visions for the Meadows which were supported from the floor.

Meeting Closed.