

Oxenhope Millennium Green Trust

Meeting Thursday 20th January 2022

Video conference at 7.00 pm

Attendees: Ken Eastwood (Chair)(KE), Andrew Collinson (Treasurer)(AC), Michelle Dawson (Village Council Nominee)(MD), Roger Smales (RS) and Jill Eastwood (JE).

Apologies: Helen Ryder (HR).

Reference	Detail	Action
01/01/2022	Appointment of new Trustee KE proposed JE as a new Trustee. KE also stated that JE could be the new Secretary. KE then asked JE to say a few words about herself which JE did. KE then asked other members of the Trust if there were any objections to JE becoming a Trustee and the Secretary. There were none. AC did ask if the appointment to Secretary was with immediate effect and KE confirmed that this would be the case. MD seconded the motion. Agreed – JE appointed as a Trustee and to undertake the role of Secretary with immediate effect.	JE
02/01/2022	Ordinary meeting – General update KE suggested that this meeting should be discussing the future direction of the Trust.	
03/01/2022	Trustee resignation RS took this opportunity to state how he was feeling especially the reaction he received when using a chain saw to help remove a dangerous tree. He felt that little had been done over the past two years when there was a lot that needed doing. He felt that he could no longer be a Trustee. KE understood acknowledged his frustration and agreed that there was a lot that needed to be done on the Green but due to the Covid-19 restrictions that have been in place, it has not been possible to organise anything on a regular basis. KE appreciated RS's efforts when he organised the working party to repair the beach when 17 people turned up. However, AC and KE did manage to repair the netting on the bridges. It was disappointing that the Fete had not taken place for the last two years which has impacted on the finances of the Trust. RS also stated that he had been approached by two families that had sponsored a bench each enquiring whether they were going to be renovated and were willing to either pay for the costs or renovate the bench themselves. KE stated that he is more than happy to help renovate the benches with RS.	

	<p>AC pointed out that the insurance policy does not cover the use of power tools on the Green so if there had been an accident then the Trustees would be liable and the Insurance Company would not have any involvement. This position had been explained at previous trustee meetings as well as in emails regarding the matter. Power tools can be used by a contractor engaged by the Trust to undertake work, as they would have their own insurance to cover accidents. KE stated that he understood both perspectives, which are never going to align and there was nothing to be gained by discussing the matter further. KE appreciated that AC is factually correct. KE then asked RS if he still intended to leave the Trust. RS confirmed that he was. KE stated that RS could still be involved with any working parties as a volunteer. RS also stated that he doesn't want to be contacted by members of the public anymore and does this resignation need to be in writing? KE asked advice from AC. AC stated that it doesn't need to be in writing but the Trustees Website will need to be updated.</p> <p>Agreed – KE to update the Millennium Green Website.</p> <p>KE stated that he was sorry that RS felt he needed to step down as a Trustee but appreciated how he felt. As the resignation took immediate effect, RS left the meeting.</p>	KE
04/01/2022	<p>Proposal of change on how Trust is managed</p> <p>KE outlined a proposal for the Village Council to become a 'Controlling Trustee' whereby the OMG Trust is still set up as a charity and a separate management committee would still remain. Research undertaken so far has only been on line so if agreeable he would undertake more in-depth investigation into the process and the pros and cons. In principle, the Trust could then access funding via the Council and possibly use the manpower already employed by the Council to undertake some of the more routine tasks such as basic maintenance and inspections. There may even be savings as regards to extending the current insurance policy that the Council has covering the Dam, Marsh Common and Rose Garden sites, to include the OMG.</p> <p>AC stated that he felt uncomfortable at the moment with RS resigning as a trustee as he still intends to leave himself in April 2022. However, his main concern is around the decision making that will be kept by the trustees. How much control will they have in any decisions being taken and, if the Council hits hard times, where will it be prioritised?</p> <p>KE stated that this was a good point but as stated further more detailed investigation is required but he needed an agreement in principal from the Trustees before proceeding any further.</p> <p>MD stated that it made sense as regards access to Council Warden but raised a concern around the ownership since the Green was held</p>	

	<p>by the Trust for the village and she would want to keep that status in place. Concerned that if it is owned by the Council the land could be used for something else which goes against the terms of the Trust agreement.</p> <p>KE stated that the land would still belong to the Trust which would still be acting as a Charity and, therefore, all the constraints of how a charity works would still be in place. The land could not be re-designated.</p> <p>MD agreed that if that was the case and bearing in mind that the Council already looks after the Dam, Marsh Common and the Rose Garden, that it would be worth investigating further.</p> <p>KE stated that he would look into the matter in further detail so it can be discussed at a future meeting, as to whether this option is suitable. If not other options can be explored.</p> <p>Agreed – KE to investigate this matter further and bring detail back to a future meeting.</p>	<p>KE</p>
<p>05/01/2022</p>	<p>OMG AGM</p> <p>KE suggested that the AGM is organised, to take place in March or as soon as possible thereafter. KE would email a suggested date to all Trustees but queried whether the Methodist Chapel should be used as the venue instead of the Lamb Inn, as it is a bigger room enabling attendees to be spaced apart better.</p> <p>AC stated he was happy to do what the Trustees felt was the best option.</p> <p>KE stated he would get the agenda out, notices for the meeting up in the Co-op including a poster and also suggested a social media push for trustees. KE stated that the Council is launching a new register of volunteers which contains their email address and a subscription form. Suggested that this also includes the OMG. This is so when a project needs to be undertaken all the volunteers can be contacted and those that can help will turn up. KE asked MD if she would produce the poster?</p> <p>MD stated that WhatsApp was a popular platform to use these days as people seem to respond quicker than in email.</p> <p>KE agreed it was more instant.</p> <p>MD requested that KE provides the information for the poster so she can produce it. MD suggested that you are more likely to get people attending a meeting if it is held in a Public House rather than a religious building. MD suggested using the Bay Horse which has a bigger room than the Lamb.</p> <p>AC enquired whether there would be a charge for the room hire? KE and MD didn't think there was a charge but this would be checked before a poster was produced.</p> <p>Agreed – KE to send email of proposed date for AGM to Trustees; check availability of room for meeting and ascertain if a charge will be made for use; once agreed provide details required for poster to</p>	<p>KE & MD</p>

	<p>KE passed the meeting to AC for the Horticultural Report. AC stated that very little has been undertaken over the past year but felt that despite this the green is still functioning as a safe and well used space and that the Trustees should not get too disappointed. AC stated that the investment account could be used to inject some finance into the upkeep of the green but would prefer this option to be used as a last resort. If unable to keep the green safe, it would need to be closed. AC was disappointed with the amount of damage that has been caused with branches being either broken or pulled off completely but accepted that unless 24 hr / 7 days a week surveillance was in place it would be impossible to stop this vandalism. AC also mentioned that a quote for grass cutting was usually requested from the current contractor – Lawnorder – in January / February time. AC stated that they have always done a good job and price is reasonable. KE confirmed happy to continue with current contractor.</p> <p>Agreed – AC to request quote from Lawnorder.</p> <p>AC also stated that the banks of the stream needed to be maintained to keep the ingress of Balsam and Knotweed. This has been eradicated over the years by hand weeding twice a year. Unfortunately, this cannot be said about the opposite bank and the land owned by the utility company on the edge of the green. It would not take much for these invasive weeds to take over once more. KE agreed to contact the relevant utility company to discuss the eradication of these weeds from their adjoining land. KE also reiterated the point that the Trustees should not beat themselves up with the lack of activity going on at the green as we are in unprecedented times.</p> <p>Agreed – KE to contact the utility company with a view to requesting that they eradicate the weeds on their land.</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>KE</p>
09/01/2022	<p>Any other business</p> <p>KE stated that he has been in touch with the mole man but had not received any response as yet.</p> <p>Agreed – KE to keep the Trustees updated with progress.</p> <p>MD stated that the contact list at the OMG notice board needed to be updated to remove RS's details.</p> <p>Agreed – MD to update the details on the OMG notice board.</p>	<p>KE</p> <p>MD</p>