

Holme Valley Land Charity

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2015

Those present:

Chairman: D Bellamy

Members: Cllrs S Baggott, T Bellamy, J G Cropper, R P Dixon, T W Dixon, D M Firth, J Greenwood, D Hall, C M Kaye, P D Searby, T Walshaw, D Yates

Secretary: Mrs S S Barber

15 37 To accept apologies for absence

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr D Bellamy took the Chair in the absence of the Chairman of the Trustee (due to ill-health). The Vice-Chairman was assisted by Cllr D M Firth (Chairman of the Management Committee).

Three members of the public were present and everyone was thanked for attending.

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs K Bellamy, R Bowles, J Brook, C R Greaves, A Hampshaw, R Hogley, J Patrick, and J Roberts.

15 38 To receive Members' declarations of interest on items on the agenda

Cllrs D M Firth and D Hall declared a personal interest in item 4 on the Agenda (Action Plan – Sude Hill).

15 39 To approve Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on 22 July 2014, numbered 14 27 to 14 31 inclusive, be confirmed; the Minutes to be published on the Land Charity's website, as previously agreed by the Trustee.

15 40 To receive report on Action Plan

The Vice-Chairman explained the absence of the Chairman of the Trustee, and that the Vice-Chairman of the Trustee and Chairman of the Management Committee had only recently taken on those roles. Due to their lack of prior involvement, the Secretary had therefore been asked to produce a report, which the Vice-Chairman then proceeded to read out (see copy attached, forming part of these Minutes).

RESOLVED: That the Secretary be thanked for her report, the contents of which were noted.

15 41 To receive Financial Report(s)

Cllr P D Searby entered the meeting during this item.

(1) The financial position of the Land Charity for the year to 31 March 2014 was on display at the meeting, including the Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts and the Receipts and Payments Accounts.

The Annual Return 2014 had been completed and submitted to the Charity Commission by the due date (31 January 2015), but Charities are only expected to send their Trustees' Annual Report and accounts to the Charity Commission for financial periods when their income is greater than £25,000. Income for the year to 31 March 2014 was below the required threshold so it was not possible to submit accounts to the Charity Commission for that period.

(2) The Secretary had produced a draft report of the financial position of the Land Charity for the year to 31 March 2015, details of which were highlighted at the meeting. The Secretary further explained that

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the final accounts were still being independently examined and would not be available until the end of September 2015. They would be approved by the Trustee, together with the Annual Return 2015 and other supporting documents (if required) prior to being submitted to the Charity Commission by the deadline of 31 January 2016.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

15 42 Public Open Session

The Chairman invited Members of the public to ask questions of the Land Charity and its activities.

The various members of the public welcomed the comments at the end of the Report on the Action Plan, for the Land Charity to be more open and transparent in its future dealings. The increase in interaction was also welcomed by those members of the public, who generally represented the Sude Hill Residents Group; that group was currently meeting with appointed Members of the Management Committee to discuss all options regarding the longer term future of the site at Sude Hill.

One Member of the Trustee expressed his concern that, despite being an adjacent property owner, he had not been invited personally to any of the public meetings organised by the Residents' Group. His view was that, in accordance with the object of the Charity, everyone in the Valley should benefit from the Land Charity, not just the residents of Sude Hill.

Cllr J G Cropper (the previous Chairman of the Trustee) then made a number of points about the relationship between the Residents' Group and the (previous) Management Committee, particularly relating to an implication that there had been confrontation from both sides. He felt that the Management Committee had not been confrontational, even in the light of adverse comments made about it, and had always retained a balanced and dignified attitude. He therefore asked those responsible for the adverse comments (including Cllr D M Firth) to apologise, but no apology was forthcoming.

The public and Members of the Trustee expressed their delight that the two appointed Members of the Management Committee were taking the matter forward, to find a solution to benefit both parties; their recommendations would be brought to the Trustee for consideration in due course.

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Chairman