

Swillington Educational Charity
Minutes of Trustees meeting held Thursday 12th September 2013

Present:, Reverend Canon Rosemarie Hayes (Chair), Councillor Ian Wallace, Councillor Judith Woodhead. Minute taker Margaret Forth.

1. Apologies: Councillor Mark Dobson .

2. Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of July 4th were accepted as true record.

3. Matters Arising.

Members were reminded that item **5.2** of the last meeting was unanimously agreed by the Trustees.

4. Progress Report:

4.1 Almax have been given permission to do some repairs to the roof but have also done some other work. They have been told that the sale is still subject to contract, the buildings were not insured and any work carried out was at their own risk and cost. Cllr Wallace to put this in writing to Almax.

4.2 It was agreed that the decision to sell was not confidential as all minutes are public documents and available to the public.

4.3 Beech Tree Developments have sent email complaining that they have been treated unfairly. Councillor Ian Wallace has replied on behalf of the Trustees. Copies of all emails and letters are filed with the minutes.

4.4 Our Solicitor and the buyer's solicitor are now in contact. Our Solicitor has obtained a copy of the deeds from the Registry in Wakefield. At a cost of £60. Cllr Wallace has taken him a copy of the original 1982 Scheme and copies of all correspondence to and from the Charity Commissioners.

5. Reports from Charity Commissioners:

5.1 The Charity Commissioners have taken a pragmatic and proportionate view of the situation but reminded the Trustees that sale can only go ahead as long as they meet three conditions under part 7 of the Charities act 2011.

- a. Obtain a report from a qualified Chartered Surveyor.
- b. Advertise the sale of the property, unless the Surveyor has said this would not be reasonable.
- c. That the Trustees are satisfied that the proposal is the best that can be obtained.

5.2 The Trustees feel that they have made the best decision given the dangerous state of the buildings and the lack of funds. They are at least saving the historic buildings rather than demolishing them.

5.3 The Charity Commissioners have said they are grateful to the Trustees for undertaking all the work and responsibility. Mr Turton said it was difficult to get Trustees to administer a healthy Charity so they are appreciative of all the Trustees are doing under difficult circumstances.

6. Financial Report:

It was agreed between meetings that Cllr Wallace authorise the Solicitor to obtain a copy of the 1905 deeds. (see 4.4)

7. Confirmation of Leeds City Council Trustee:

7.1 RESOLVED: A letter received from LCC confirming Councillor Mark Dobson is their nominated Trustee for a period of three years.

8. Late Agenda Items:

8.1 Letter from Swillington Parish Council asking for information and an update regarding the Old School. It was pointed out that if this item had been on the Parish Council agenda as agreed at the November 2012 Trustee meeting. The nominated Trustee who represents them could have fed back all information. Councillor Ian Wallace will reply on behalf of the Trustees.

8.2 Letter from Diana Puxty on behalf of the Uniformed Groups in Swillington; the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Brownies, asking if they could be considered for funding if the proceeds of the sale of the Old School was to be spent in the Community. Councillor Ian Wallace will reply on behalf of the Trustees to explain, any money raised can only be distributed in accordance with Section 27 of the Scheme. The Trustees will consider how to proceed if the sale is completed.
Any changes to the distribution and area of distribution will have to be confirmed by the Charity Commission

9. Date and Location of Public Meeting:

9.1. It was felt that to call a full Public Meeting may not be the way forward as the decisions have been made. It was agreed to hold and advertise an Open Meeting of the Trustees on Thursday 24th October at 7.30 pm in Church. The Agenda will include:

- Details of all Options considered
- Progress to date
- Current position

Final agenda to be decided at the next Trustees meeting

Councillor Ian Wallace will produce posters. These will be displayed as widely as possible in Swillington and Great and Little Preston.

10. Any Other Business:

None

11. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday 16th October at 2.00 pm in Church.

Chairperson _____

Minute Secretary _____