

Swillington Educational Charity No. 511871

Draft Minutes of the Open Meeting for people who reside in Great or Little Preston and Swillington, Thursday 8th January 2015

Present: Trustees: Councillor Andrea McKenna, (Chair), Councillor Judith Woodhead, Councillor Ian Wallace, Councillor Jacqui Smith

Minute taker Margaret Forth. **17** members of the public signed the attendance register.

Apologies: Trustee Reverend Canon Rosemarie Hayes, Revd Diane Flynn (who did join meeting later).

Councillor Andrea McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendees were issued with an Agenda which contained Trustee and Charity contact details, minutes and briefing notes from the last open meeting held in October 24 2013, minutes of the last Trustees meeting held on December 19 2014 and relevant extracts from The Scheme on the rules of the area and distribution of funds.

1. Background:

- Councillor Andrea McKenna explained the Charity had been in existence for many years. In 1981 when the Charity known as the Parochial School sold part of the land to Swillington Parish Council to build the Community Centre (now the Village Hall), the rest of the land, buildings and funds were gifted to the new Swillington Educational Charity (SEC) and vested in the Official Custodian for Charities. The current governing document, The Scheme, was drawn up by the Charity Commission in agreement with the first Trustees in 1981. Tonights meeting was called to update residents and to hear any suggestions, to add to those of the Trustees, ways of improving the Scheme to meet the educational needs of qualifying residents today.
- In answer to a query Councillor Ian Wallace referred everyone to the minutes and briefing notes from the last Open Meeting held 24th October 2013. This explained the history and reasons for selling the buildings.
- He explained that the money raised from the sale, £50,000, the **capital**, MUST be invested in approved accounts, i.e. Charities Official Investment Funds, (COIF) as a permanent endowment. The funds will be overseen by a specialist investment management company for Charities, Churches, and Local Authorities, CCLA, where the current annual return on investment is around 4%. Any **income** from the capital would go directly into a COIF deposit account, which would be accessible to the Trustees to apply in accordance with Clause 27 of the Scheme.
- The Trustees have applied to the Charity Commissioners for permission to use £5,000 of the capital to open a COIF deposit account. This would enable the Charity to start receiving applications for grants. No reply has yet been received as yet.
- It was explained that many thousands of pounds from the SEC permanent endowment funds and grants from LCC were spent on the interior of the school, including painting, new central heating, new kitchen and new ceiling. Very little was spent on the exterior and nothing spent on the masters house hence the semi derelict state the current trustees inherited.

2. Future Options:

- The Trustees could apply to the Commission to close the Charity. The funds may have to be transferred to another charity or charities '*with compatible purposes*' as set out in Clause 27 of the Scheme. There would be no guarantee that the money would be retained in the parishes of Great and Little Preston and Swillington.
- The Charity could continue to operate and issue grants to residents of Great and Little Preston and Swillington from the interest raised by the investment of the capital.
- Any grants, by law, would have to meet the terms laid down in Clause 27 of the Scheme. The Trustees are to apply to the Charity Commissioners for some changes to the Scheme to allow more discretion on the way the grants could be given.
- Following a request from the Uniformed Organisations for a grant towards the cost of a storage container, the Charity Commissioners had been contacted to ask if that would meet the terms of the Scheme. The reply was '*The Scheme is quite clear at Clause 27, 'Application of Income', as to where and on whom the charity's funds can be spent. I am not sure how your request fits into clause 27.*'
- The Trustees would like to see 'social' education being addressed much more widely so more young people and groups could benefit.
- The Trustees have not set any monetary limits on individual grants or frequencies [Clause 27 (2)] but they will have to be within the limits of the annual income.

3. Future:

- There was general agreement that keeping the Charity running would be the best way forward.
- The Trustees will continue to liaise with the Charity Commissioners to improve the scheme and would welcome any questions or comments from residents of Great and Little Preston and Swillington. Contact details for the Charity and all Trustees will be attached to the minutes and will shortly be on the respective Parish Council Web sites.
- Comments and suggestions to groups 'to obtain funds from the capital receipts' by individuals not connected with the Charity have not helped, mis - informed and misled people. Decisions will only be made by the Trustees in accordance with Charity Law and the guidance of the Charity Commission.
- Although the minutes of Trustees meetings are not required to be made public, the minutes of all the SEC meetings since July 2012 are available to view on the web sites for Great and Little Preston, and Swillington Parish Councils. Anyone wishing to receive electronic copies and updates should contact the secretary.

4. Discussion from the floor:

- The main concern from those present was that Swillington Pre School Playgroup and the Uniformed Organisations had been left without adequate meeting space. This was acknowledged by the Trustees and various options were discussed especially for Playgroup, itself a registered Charity, who are at crisis point.
- It was suggested that when grants are available the local High Schools should be informed so that they can raise awareness with their students who may be eligible to apply for grants.

5. In conclusion:

- The Trustees will advertise widely around the area of distribution when grants become available and the criteria for applying.
- They will liaise with the Charity Commissioners to ensure that as many people, groups and organisations as possible can benefit from the Scheme.
- The Trustees encouraged people to contact them direct with any queries or suggestions using the contact details given below. Only Trustees can answer questions regarding the affairs of the Charity.

Councillor Andrea McKenna thanked everyone for attending and their participation.

All the points raised will be discussed at the next Trustees meeting on January 30 with a view to formulating the official request to the Charity Commission to implement the suggested changes to the Scheme.

Chairperson _____ Minute Taker _____

CONTACTS

TRUSTEES

Reverend Canon Rosemarie Hayes. Ex Officio & Chair. rosemariehayes@live.co.uk

Cllr Andrea McKenna Leeds City Council nominee. Andrea.Mckenna@leeds.gov.uk

Cllr Judith Woodhead Swillington PC nominee. judithwdhd@sky.com

Cllr Ian Wallace Great and Little Preston PC nominee & Secretary. Home 0113 2867991
Mobile 07768207404
secretarysec2014@gmail.com
or
ian.wallace21@btopenworld.com

Jacqui Smith co opted natterjac@btinternet.com

Janet Taylor co opted jantay_1@hotmail.co.uk

Mail Address Swillington Educational Charity
Swillington Village Hall
Church Lane
Swillington
Leeds
LS26 8DX