

Arnold's Bequest Charity Board Meeting

All Lowestoft Town Council Councillors, as members of the corporate body of Trustees, are requested to participate in a meeting of the Arnold's Bequest Charity Board, to be held **at First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE at 18:00 on Tuesday 23 January 2024.**

Members of the public can join the meeting remotely via the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87264465754>. The meeting can also be observed via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/kGUveSRqYfg>.

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Sonia Barker (Mayor), Nasima Begum, Wendy Brooks, Neil Coleby, Andy Pearce, Bernadette Rappensberger and Deborah Ray

In attendance: Lauren Elliott (Project and Committee Clerk)

Public: No members of the public were in attendance

38. Welcome

The fire evacuation procedure and public right to report were explained and the meeting was welcomed.

39. Approval of apologies for absence

Cllr Youngman had advised she would be late. Apologies were received from Cllrs Jen Jones, Christian Newsome, Paul Page, John Pitts, Jack Smith and Nick Webb, with reasons provided. Cllr Brooks proposed to approve the apologies, with the exception of Cllr Smith. The proposal was not seconded. Cllr Begum proposed approval of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Pearce; six Councillors voted in favour; one Councillor voted against.

40. Declarations of interests and consider any dispensations

Cllrs Barker, Brooks and Ray declared they are members of Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

41. The draft minutes of the meeting on 24 October 2023

Cllr Pearce proposed approval of the minutes; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

42. Any receipts and payments and the accounts to date

The current position had been provided to members. Cllr Brooks proposed acceptance of the receipts, payments and accounts to date; seconded by Cllr Begum; all in favour.

43. The opening of the bank account for Arnold's Bequest

It was noted that the bank account for Arnold's Bequest was open. The Charity Board offered its thanks to officers for their work on this.

44. Appointing an additional bank signatory

Cllr Brooks volunteered to become a bank signatory; seconded by Cllr Pearce; all in favour.

45. Receiving feedback from a recent site visit and to consider any actions or projects to be progressed

There was a desire from the Charity Board for a pond to be developed, given the benefit to wildlife it would have. East Suffolk Norse's Countryside Officer had previously advocated for this when supporting the Charity Board. Officers' concerns regarding maintenance and resourcing were accepted, and consideration would need to be given to ensuring visitors' safety, though it would be intended for the pond to remain shallow. Cllr Pearce proposed to keep this on the agenda for consideration, taking account of officers' concerns and what may be done to

mitigate them; seconded by Cllr Brooks. A natural spring had been observed during the site visit, of which the pond could become an extension. During the site visit it had been noted that some of the wooden handrails were rotting. There were metal handrails in places, but the Charity Board considered these were not in keeping with the site. It was suggested that hardwood would be longer lasting, or a recycled plastic material may look more in keeping. Cllr Pearce added this to his proposal to consider alternative options to metal handrails. The vote was taken and all Councillors voted in favour.

A complaint had been received from a member of the public, regarding littering and fly-tipping on the bank at the top of the site, from Yarmouth Road. This was discussed at the site visit and a response was to be provided following this meeting. It was noted this had been an historic issue and was ongoing. The aim of the bin store had been to reduce litter in the area. It was suggested a rail-mounted bin could also help, though it was understood at least some of the litter was windblown, rather than dropped in this location. It was noted that Lighthouse Score was not owned by the Town Council, or included in the footprint of Arnold's Bequest. confirmed this is not in our ownership. The grounds maintenance team were undertaking regular litter picks of the site and had been there that week. Cllr Pearce advised he picked up litter when walking through the site. Cllr Brooks considered residents leaving their bins out to be part of the issue, and suggested the waste management authority should do more to encourage residents to take their bins in following collection. Cllr Pearce proposed asking officers to explore the feasibility of installing a barrier (either hedging or fencing) at the top of the site, to prevent litter blowing into the site from elsewhere. Officers will also ask the grounds maintenance team if they consider the current schedule of waste collection rounds at the site adequate. Feedback will be received at the next meeting. Cllr Coleby seconded the proposal and all Councillors voted in favour.

46. A grounds maintenance report

The grounds maintenance report had been made available to the Charity Board and was noted.

47. An update on lease arrangements for car parking areas (some aspects may be confidential)

An update from the lawyer was pending. Cllr Pearce proposed to delegate authority to officers, in consultation with members of the corporate body of Trustees, to progress the lease and provision of the soakaway, including dealing with any queries outside of meetings, with a progress update to be given at the next meeting; seconded by Cllr Brooks; all in favour.

48. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 23 April 2024 18:00

49. Items for the next agenda and close

Cllr Coleby requested the addition of an item on October's agenda to discuss bulbs in the green. There were no confidential items for consideration and the meeting was closed 18:26.

50. Resolution to close the meeting to the public

Signed:
23 April 2024