

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>.

Agenda

38. Welcome

39. To receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

40. To note declarations of interests and consider any dispensations

41. To consider the draft minutes of the meeting on 24 October 2023

Draft minutes uploaded to the website.

42. To note any receipts and payments and the accounts to date

Arnold's Bequest budget spreadsheet uploaded to the website.

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

The bank account with Unity Trust is now open. Bank signatories should have received details of how to register for online banking. Any signatories having issues registering should speak with Lauren or contact Unity Trust Bank for assistance.

44. To appoint an additional bank signatory

The current signatories are Cllrs Sonia Barker, Nasima Begum and Andy Pearce. Alan Green was a signatory but has resigned from the Council. It is recommended that an additional signatory is now appointed.

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

A site visit took place on Tuesday 16 January, attended by Cllrs Barker, Brooks, Craig and Ray, plus the Project and Committee Clerk and members of LTC's facilities and grounds maintenance staff. Excessive ivy growth was observed on some of the trees, which will be managed by grounds maintenance staff. A budget for a wildlife sign and information trail about the Arnold family and the Bequest itself were approved at the last meeting. The Project and Committee Clerk will liaise with local Historians to gather information for this. There has been a desire for a wildlife pond to be developed at the site. Officers do however have some concerns about developing an area of standing water on the site and the difficulties in developing and maintaining a pond here. On the site visit, a natural spring was observed running through part of the site. A channel has now been created at the bottom of the hill to help prevent water run-off into a car park, and the birds particularly were enjoying the water supply. Grounds maintenance staff can undertake work to clear the spring of debris. If the Charity Board would like to see a source of natural water at the site for wildlife it is already here and this should negate the need to try to develop a pond.



The other items discussed at the site visit have been picked up in item 46 below.

A member of the public has complained about the litter and fly-tipping to the steep bank at the top of Arnold's Bequest (from Yarmouth Road). There is an issue with people throwing litter over the wall there, and it is a possibility litter is falling from the bins in the bin store, or being thrown from surrounding flats (this has been reported but not yet proven). It is a difficult part of the site to access safely as it is so steep, but the issue does need to be addressed. Installation of a fence-mounted bin facing Yarmouth Road may help with general litter management. Volunteer litter picking of appropriate places at the site has taken place previously and can be supported again. Lowestoft Town Council grounds maintenance operatives regularly litter pick the site and have been there this week.





46. To receive a grounds maintenance report

With the very nature of Arnold's Bequest it is not a site which requires day-to-day management and maintenance, but that is not to say that the site is in any way forgotten or neglected, far from it. Invasive plant species such as Alexanders have been mentioned as an issue before and will be cut back at an appropriate time, particularly any which encroach on the pathways. With the Town Council now employing its own grounds maintenance operatives, a programme of works can be put in place to ensure we keep on top of managing any invasive species, and this will provide a good opportunity to undertake more 'woodland' planting, such as bluebells, primula and snowdrops. The Charity Board previously approved the installation of handrails at the site, and this work will be undertaken 'in house'. The Charity Board also approved the purchase of bird boxes and these are on order. The tree survey identified an oak tree which will need to be felled (at the top of the site near the junction of the pathways). This work will be undertaken by a contractor shortly. Additional tree works were also identified on the site visit (see item 45), and the Town Council's grounds maintenance operatives have made the trees safe and left the felled branches on site as a wildlife habitat.



With reference to the complaint from the member of the public regarding littering at the site (see notes of the previous item), litter picking and bin emptying takes place regularly at the site, but remains an ongoing issue. The site does not perhaps receive as much maintenance and management as other parks and areas of land in Lowestoft, it really does not need it. To some, the area may not look as attractive as an ornamental park or garden, but the beauty of Arnold's Bequest is that it provides precious and valuable wildlife habitat. With careful management of the site its appearance can be enhanced, and this should not be costly or difficult to achieve, but the priority should be preserving and nurturing the habitat and features we have there.

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

The lawyer has been asked for an update. The Town Council has several legal matters ongoing, and a list is being put together of all outstanding legal matters for the Town Council and the Charity Board, so that priorities can be identified.

48. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 23 April 2024 18:00

49. Items for the next agenda and close

50. To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, namely any legal issues relating to the matters on this agenda