

Arnold's Bequest Charity Board Meeting

Minutes of a video meeting held on 26 January 2021 at 7.00 pm

Video meeting participants: Cllrs Colin Butler, Neil Coleby, Amanda Frost, Alan Green (Chair), Jacqueline Hardie, Peter Knight, Paul Page, Keith Patience (arrived 19.06) Andy Pearce and John Pitts

Also participating: Lauren Elliott (Committee Clerk), Shona Bendix (Town Clerk) and Sarah Foote (Deputy Town Clerk)

Minutes

29. Welcome

The application of the Town Council's video meeting protocol and right to report were explained, and the meeting was welcomed.

30. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Susan Barnard, David Youngman, Alice Taylor, and Graham Parker. Bob Breakspear, Tara Carlton, and Tracey Eastwood had not provided apologies and were absent. Cllr Pearce proposed acceptance of the apologies received; seconded by Cllr Green; and unanimously agreed.

31. Declarations of interests and any dispensations

There were none.

32. Receipt of any comments and noting that the draft minutes of 27 October 2020 will be considered at the next appropriate meeting

There were no comments and the draft minutes were noted.

33. Receipts and payments and the accounts to date

Funds were reported at £1,655 and there had been no transactions since last meeting. 19.03 Cllr Frost left the meeting.

34. Approval of year end accounts (2019/2020) and submission to the Charity Commission

It was proposed by Cllr Coleby, seconded by Cllr Pearce and unanimously agreed to accept the end of year accounts. The Committee Clerk would submit the annual return of Charity Board to the Charity Commission.

35. Bank Account

A paper had been circulated to Board Members detailing options for a bank account.

19.07 Cllr Hardie left the meeting and returned at 19.09.

Cllr Coleby proposed opening an account with Unity Trust bank due to their ethical reputation and the Town Council being familiar with this bank.

Cllr Hardie proposed the Co-operative Bank due to them not charging a fee.

Cllr Patience seconded the proposal for Unity Trust. This was not carried (four votes in favour, five against)

Cllr Pearce seconded the proposal for the Co-operative Bank. This was agreed (eight votes in favour, one abstention).

36. Biodiversity and site management actions, including an update on activities to date

36.1 Friends of Group – Cllr Coleby was keen to progress a Group but confirmed with the current pandemic restriction that now was not the best time. The Committee Clerk had spoken the Norse Countryside Officer who was willing to give half a day per month time to support volunteers, again when appropriate to do so. This item would be considered

further at the next meeting.

19.15 Cllr Hardie left the meeting.

36.2 Bulbs – Cllr Coleby proposed a maximum budget of £200 to purchase bulbs ‘in the green; (bluebells, aconites and snowdrops) to be planted in liaison with the countryside officer with delegated authority to the Town Clerk to progress. Seconded by Cllr Pearce and unanimously agreed. It was noted, that if necessary the Town Council would invoice the Trust Board for this expenditure.

19.19 Cllr Patience left the meeting

36.3 Signage – It was noted that the Trust Board would work in conjunction with the Town Council to progress signage as appropriate.

37. Potential nursery plans and an associated lease with Lowestoft Town Council

Cllr proposed that exploration takes place and comes back to next meeting with the necessary information for further consideration. It was noted that further information on the specific piece of land to be used was needed. Seconded by Cllr Pearce and unanimously agreed.

19.23 Cllr Patience returned to the meeting.

38. Contractual arrangements for grounds maintenance

This item would be considered in confidential session

39. Lease for a car parking area of Arnold’s Bequest

This item would be considered in confidential session

40. Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 27 April 2021 19:00

At 19.23 it was proposed by Cllr Pearce, seconded by Cllr Knight and unanimously agreed 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 contractual and lease arrangements.

41. Meeting close

The Mayor thanked those who had been viewing the meeting via live stream and the meeting was closed to the public.

42. The following confidential items were considered.

38. A one year contractual arrangement for grounds maintenance was agreed to commence in line with the 2021/2022 Town Council financial year. It was noted that there had not previously been a charge for grounds maintenance of Trust Board land.

39. This item would be deferred to the next meeting. In the meantime, Cllr Coleby asked for liaison with Flagship Housing regarding the position of the exploratory sink holes and a request that they were nearer to the rear of Flagship’s properties.

Meeting closed 19.28

