



CHARITY COMMISSION NO. 294673

TO PROMOTE THE PERMANENT PRESERVATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE INHABITANTS OF THE PARISH OF ASHWELL, LANDS AND BUILDINGS OF BEAUTY OR HISTORIC INTEREST, ECOLOGICAL OR SCIENTIFIC IMPORTANCE WITHIN THE PARISH, AND GENERALLY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE CHARACTER AND AMENITIES OF THE PARISH FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

**Minutes of the AGM of the trustees of the Ashwell Village Trust
held on Tuesday 28th June 2022, 8pm in the Parish Room.**

Present: Graham Lee (Parish Council Chairman and, in accordance with the trust deed, Chairman of the trustees), Amanda Bettany (trustee), Simon Bettany (trustee and hon treasurer), Gordon Hill (trustee), Liz Moynihan (trustee). Jane Porter (trustee, in her own right, and Parish Clerk). Claire Moynihan (trustee) joined the meeting on Zoom.

1. Apologies for absence. David Sims (Parish Council appointed trustee), Mark White (Parish Council appointed trustee).

2. Previous meetings.

2.1 The meetings cancelled due to the Covid pandemic were noted.

2.2 Proposal to approve and sign the minutes of the AGM held on 5th June 2019.

It was agreed that these be approved and signed.

Action: JP/GL

2.3 Proposal to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2021.

The amendments circulated were noted; it was agreed that they be incorporated and the minutes approved and signed.

Action: JP/GL

3. Trustees and the Trust Deed. Gordon Hill noted that the Trust currently had 9 trustees, whereas the Trust Deed, as amended, stated there should be 8 trustees. *(The original Trust Deed dated 3 February 1986 stated the Trust should be administered by 5 trustees, 3 of whom should be members of Ashwell Parish Council with one of these 3 being the Chairman of Ashwell Parish Council. The other 2 trustees should be co-optative trustees. At the Trust's Annual General Meeting dated 7th June 2017 it was agreed that 3 additional trustee positions should be created, thus increasing the total number of trustees to 8).* A proposal was made and accepted that it was in the Trust's best interests to increase the number of trustees to a maximum of 9 trustees, 3 of whom should be members of Ashwell Parish Council with one of these 3 being the Chairperson of Ashwell Parish Council. It was agreed that a formal amendment to the Trust Deed was required and Simon Bettany should take this forward with the Charity Commission.

Action: SB

4. Financial and Governance matters.

4.1 Hon Treasurer's report. The report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 were noted and approved. A new sign for the Cottage Garden had been purchased during the year ended March 2022 and in the current year payments made to reimburse the volunteer leader for plants,

Signed

Date

compost etc in line with the agreement for this. The number of volunteers remained very good but cash reserves would cover any eventuality to hire paid labour to maintain the garden if this situation changed. The potential for moving reserves to an account(s) that paid a higher rate of interest had been looked into but the possibilities for this were limited.

4.2 Insurance and risk assessment. It was noted that the current insurance was a joint policy with the Parish Council; the next review deadline was 1st October 2022. Simon Bettany reported that he had reviewed the current schedule and had no matters to raise. It was noted that there was no upper age limit to the liability cover for volunteers.

It was agreed that, with regard to the Trust, a recommendation for renewal be made to the Parish Council. *Action: JP*

It was agreed that the risk assessment for the Cottage Garden be reviewed by Jane Porter with the leader of the volunteers Martyn Hird. *Action: JP*

5. Cottage Garden matters.

5.1 The leader of the volunteers Martyn Hird was enthusiastically commended for his 'wonderful job'. It was agreed that a letter be sent to him noting this and thanking him for his much-appreciated input. *Action: JP*

5.2 Liz Moynihan reiterated her concerns re the two wooden seats; they remained in an ugly state following the inappropriate surface treatment that had mistakenly been undertaken some years ago. It was agreed that expert advice be sought to improve them. *Action: JP*

6. Matters of report from other meetings.

It was noted that in 2017 discussions had taken place re the privately owned Quaker burial ground in Angells Meadow. This had centred around the possibility of whether the Trust could play any role in its management, improving the state of it and opening it up for public access of an appropriate nature. It was agreed that advice be sought from a known local contact as to how a formal approach to the landowner might be received. *Action:JP*

7. Proposal for the date of the next AGM.

This was agreed for Wednesday 28th June 2023.

Jane Porter

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On behalf of the Trustees

Signed

Date