

Minutes

Ashwell Community Land Trust Ltd

- Meeting Thursday 16 March, 7pm at the Parish Room, Swan Street, Ashwell.
- Participants: Graham Lee (Director Member/Parish Council Chairman), Norton Mahy (Director Member/Parish Council Vice-chairman), George Tait (Director Member/Parishioner representative). Parishioners who have expressed interest in becoming members: Max Jackson, Cliff Jenkinson, Vanessa Jenkinson. Also present: Jane Porter, Clerk to Ashwell Parish Council acting as Secretary to the Trust.
 1. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 02 February 2023 were approved.**
 2. **Banking.** An account with the Co-op Bank had now been set up (GL, NM and JP as signatories/administrator). It was noted that the Parish Council had agreed to cover the costs of membership of the CLT Network and the associated liability insurance, also any office/administration costs.
 3. **Member recruitment.** It was agreed that a share certificate be drafted with a view to accepting members (£1 per individual or village group) from the next meeting.

Action: NM
 4. **Membership of the CLT Network.** It was noted that, in addition to the liability insurance, this would provide a useful source of information re grants etc. It was agreed that GL progress membership.

Action: GL
 5. **Engagement with other bodies.** NM reported that he had joined a webinar organised by Eastern Community Homes; this had given some useful information and contacts such as Allia, a social enterprise. Contacts had also been established with the CDAHerts Rural Housing Enabler and local housing associations. It was agreed that NM and GL continue to identify useful contacts and progress dialogue where appropriate.

Action: GL/NM
 6. **Update on the proposals for the registration of community assets.** It was noted that the Parish Council had submitted proposals for the three village pubs last year but had been informed that they would be rejected without fuller information on the community benefit, ie details of which community groups made use of the facilities, for what purpose and when. It was agreed that a parishioner who had shown interest in this would be asked to progress this.

Action: GL

7. **Local sites of potential interest.** It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan had identified the needs of the village not just for housing development but also for recreational and sports facilities, green space, etc.
- 6.1 It was noted that the Parish Council had some time ago established a dialogue with the landowner of Dixies Meadow (land off the High Street) and emphasized the village interest in the site but there had been no recent contact. A potential role for the CLT was noted subject to village-wide consultation. The agent acting on behalf of the landowner had informed the Parish Council in November 2022 that they intended to submit a planning application for a development of 12 houses with some open space at the rear of the site.
- 6.2 It was noted that a planning application had been submitted to NHC for a development of 14 dwellings on Hunts Close (land between the Ruddy and Lucas Lane); this had yet to be determined by NHC. The agent had informed that the part of the site identified to be open space would be offered as a gift to the Parish Council. It was noted that the Parish Council had requested information from the NHC planning officer on the progress of the application and when further input from the Parish Council would be required.
- 6.3 It was noted that the BT site (Silver Street opposite the school) had previously been identified as a site of potential community and/or school use. It was agreed that a contact at BT be identified. **Action: GL**
8. **Publicity.** It was noted that a flyer had been distributed with the Yearbook and agreed that copies would also be handed out at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 22 March **Action: JP**
9. **Date for the next meeting. Monday 15th May, 7pm (venue TBC)**

Jane Porter, Clerk to Ashwell Parish Council acting as Secretary to the Trust.