

Othona Community

Minutes of the meeting of Trustees held on Monday 12 November 2007 at Friends House, Euston Road

Present: Sheila Maxey (chair), Dave Ball, Sally Clark, Audrey Day, Dave Evans, Tim Fox, Margaret Lydamore (secretary), Jan Marshall, Pat Price-Tomes, Robin Stallard

In attendance: Tony Jaques, Roger Pygram, David Williams

Action

1. Audrey **opened the meeting** in prayer.
2. **Apologies** - none
3. The **minutes of the meeting** on 10 September, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed by the chair.
4. **Financial Report**
 - a) Roger circulated income/expenditure accounts for both centres for the 11 months to September 2007 (attached). These were as expected, and the cash position is good.
 - b) The flow chart for the arrangements for the handover between Treasurers (attached) was accepted.
 - c) Trustees agreed that Sheila should sign the Letter of Engagement for Stephen Mortimer as the new Treasurer (attached), subject to its being carefully read first by Dave Evans. **DE/SM**
 - d) An email (attached) had been received from Mr Fahy, the solicitor, giving his opinion on the restricted land issue. Dave Ball will obtain from him a letter to send to the Charity Commissioners. **DB**
Sheila will ask him for a copy of the paperwork which shows how the land and house at Burton was conveyed to the Community. **SM**
5. **Community Secretary**

Pat had provided a written report (attached), which was accepted by the Trustees.

Pat flagged up the need for Trustees to work out a way of reviewing our policies regularly.

She has so far received 9 nominations for elections to the Bradwell Committee, and 2 for Burton, and will see that all arrangements are made for meeting on 16 February. She will also communicate with the Charity Commissioners over amendments made to the Trust Deed, and the change to the financial year. **PP-T**
6. **Bradwell**
 - a) The Manager's report (attached) was accepted.
 - b) David circulated a Report to the Trustees, Bradwell Committee, Buildings Sub Group and Fund Raising Group (attached) on the kind of buildings he considers desirable for Bradwell's future. Trustees welcomed discussion over this, and agree that David may begin a consultation process, but emphasized that this does not constitute acceptance of his plans. David will begin by consulting the Buildings Sub Group through an extraordinary meeting. Trustees look forward to hearing more.
7. **Burton**
 - a) Warden's report (attached), previously circulated, was accepted.
 - b) Sheila voiced her concern over how the Burton building sub-group is to relate to the Trustees, since it is Community money that will be spent. Trustees agreed that there needs to be a Trustee presence, and that Trustees should be given the names and qualifications of those involved. Tony recognized the need for this, and Trustees will discuss the matter further later in the meeting.
8. Steve Aldridge joined the meeting to discuss a **real estate strategy for the Community**. He had not provided a written report in advance, thinking it best to begin with a verbal discussion, particularly as he had only just received the valuation for Burton. He pointed out that in real estate terms, Othona is a very rich charity, owning around £3 - 4 million in land and buildings. However, in investments terms, East Hall Farm is

performing very poorly, yielding at present only a rent of £17,500, and there is a very serious issue over the Trustees' responsibility to make full use of the assets in the furtherance of the aims. If a decision were to be taken to sell all or part of the farm, Steve suggested an approach might be made to the company who are our current tenants. However, negotiations would take at least six months. Steve, as our property advisor, will complete his report and suggest his own brief. The report is to go first to Tim, Dave Ball and Dave Evans. SA

9. Trustees accepted the **Membership Secretary's** annual report, and noted again her concerns that a committee be set up to look at membership. However, with all that is going on at present, this was not thought to be a high priority. MS's remuneration will be looked in January.

10. **AOB** There has been no response to the request for a new editor for *Full Circle*, and we need to keep looking for a competent person.

Margaret will check the booking situation for the February meeting with Roger.
The new edition of *Much Ado* is out, and being promoted by the Centres.

11. **Dates of next meetings:** Mondays 28 January, 21 April, 23 June, 24 November (6.30 at Friends House). and 16 February and 20 September, before the General Meeting and the AGM.

(Signed) (Date).....