

HICKLING PLAYING FIELD OR RECREATION GROUND CHARITY RCN 270199

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on 17th November 2014, 7.30pm. at Hickling Barn

TRUSTEES : Chairman Richard Cook, Nick Baker, Harry Purnell, Pam Barnard, Harvey Gibbons, Brian Butcher, Chris Watkins, Lorraine West, Shirley Sainsbury, Vivien Tallwin

Invited guests: Jeremy Veitch, charity's accountant from Pheonix Business Services

Independent Invigilators for vote counting: Terry Cotton, Paul Williams

Apologies: Trustee Maggie Prettyman, members, David Prettyman, Bernice Watkins, Yvonne Pugh, Dinah Slatter

Members present: 99 signed in, including Trustees.

1. Welcome and Introduction

HPFRG Trustees Chairman Richard Cook opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

He asked if anyone believed that anyone present was not a member of the charity, with no response.

He then asked if the meeting had been properly advertised, a show of hands confirmed it had.

A minute of reflection was observed for Maggie and David Prettyman, following the recent death of their son, Sam. The Chairman reported that the Tesco grant which had funded most of the internal equipment at the Barn, had come about as a result of their gratitude for Sam's contribution as an employee.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the **2013 AGM** were presented and **approved** with a two minor corrections.

The minutes of the **Sep 2014 EGM** were presented and **approved**. (It was noted that these had been signed by the Trustees in error, immediately after the EGM, but this needed to be done by the members at a General Meeting.)

3. To receive the Accounts for the Financial Year 2013/2014 –

Trustees Vice chairman Harry Purnell gave an overview of the accountant's report and the key issues from the last financial year.

Questions on the accounts were invited for the Charity's accountant, Jeremy Veitch, to answer.

It was then proposed on the basis of the report from Phoenix Business Services, Accountants' report, that the Charity's accounts for the 2013/2014 financial year be received, to be sent to the Charity Commission.

With a show of hands **the motion was carried unanimously**.

4. Report on the Activities of the Charity for the 2013/14 year

Trustee Chris Watkins gave a comprehensive report on all activities and events that took place during 2013/14, many of which are ongoing at the Barn. The trustees, management team and all the volunteers have worked extremely hard over the past year to ensure the Barn continues to be successful.

5. Update on the legal dispute with Hickling Parish Council –

Trustee Harry Purnell gave an overview of the dispute and how the trustees have continually tried to negotiate a settlement over the last year. The key point was that after the EGM where the Parish Council's proposed Constitution was overwhelmingly refused by the membership, by 141 votes to 93, the Trustees invited the Parish Council to negotiate a compromise constitution.

6. Election of Trustees –

Stakeholder Group Nominations were: Brian Butcher – Pheonix Trust

Hickling Hunnies will be nominating their trustee at their next committee meeting as they could not meet before the AGM

The following stood for open election: Mrs Maggie Prettyman
 Mr Nick Baker
 Mr Harvey Gibbons

With a show of hands all the above were accepted onto the board of trustees.

All other trustees resigned, ie: Viv Tallowin, Shirley Sainsbury, David Beales and Pam Barnard.

7. To receive any issues of policy –

The Chairman announced that all policies have been reviewed and where necessary, updated.

The Chairman then proposed the following Motion:

“That the HPFRGC adopts the amended constitution which has been advertised prior to this meeting. “

Before the vote on the new proposed constitution, which had been widely advertised prior to the AGM, four members had requested to speak.

Trustee Nick Baker explained the main points of the proposal in detail and answered a number of questions on behalf of the Trustees. Essentially, the Constitution, or Deed of Administration responded to the views expressed at the EGM regarding the proposal which was originally proposed by the Parish Council. In particular, it allowed a poll on many issues, where charity law allowed it, and did not require the illegal use of the Open Electoral Register. In addition, it kept membership, and the rights of a variety of village groups to nominate Trustees, rather than the Parish Council being the only group which has such rights.

Robin Slatter, Terry Barker, Celia Cooper and David Belsten, all spoke to the motion.

With a show of hands of the 99 members present, the motion was carried by a vote of 94 in favour to 5 against, and the new constitution was duly adopted.

Richard Cook invited everyone to stay for refreshments and thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed Richard Cook.....

Dated