

Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

held by Remote Zoom on Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Present: Duncan Ault (DA) (Chair); Niccola Swan (NS); Andrew Wriglesworth (AW), Jan Edwards (JE); Loraine Hughes (LH); Nick Turnbull (NT); Harvey Bosomworth (HB); Ian Rigarlsford (IR); Sylvia Tilford (ST); James Moorhouse (JM)

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and Trustee matters:

Apologies from Mark Elsworth (ME)

Bill Midgeley, Keith Dale, Elaine Marsden, Shirley Moffat and Barbara Holden from BET were also in attendance during the discussion on the Burley Educational Trust matter.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2021

The previous meeting minutes were approved (subject to Carys Bowes name being corrected)

3. Matters arising.

All matters arising were covered in the meeting.

4. Correspondence

There was ongoing correspondence regarding the BET matter (covered at 7 below).

Burley Community Council had now been wound up. This followed the handing over of the lease of the Roundhouse to Bradford City Council. A sum of £2.74 had also been handed over. Recognition was due again to Bruce Speed for his long contributions to this and other village matters.

5. Trustee matters

Tim Brooke observed the meeting as a possible new trustee

5. Treasurer's Report

Prior to the meeting ME had circulated the treasurers report and up to date accounts position.

It was noted that the value of cash assets for the Trust stood at £93,824.12 as of 28 February 2021 having been £80,560.65 on 1st October 2020.

Of this figure, £15,778.65 was still held in the Playground Fund and £3,419.45 was reserved for the Corn Mill pond. £1,514.99 was also earmarked for the Library, £471.95 for the Christmas Lights and £730 for the 'Meals fund'. This left £71,909.08 in the General Purposes Fund.

Existing and potential commitments of £21,470, including up to £11,235.51 for the Playground, £2,500 for the village map and £3,000 for Youthquake, reduced the 'available' general funds to £53,775.57.

The sums that may also be committed to other projects totaled £16,000. This included a potential commitment of an additional £6,000 for a youth support worker for Youthquake, which it had been agreed would in fact be spread over a 3-year period, £5,000 for Walkers with Wheels and £5,000 for a Drinking water fountain. If these all proceed then available general funds would reduce to £37,775.57.

Main receipts since last meeting were £3,162 from Greenbelt in respect of Scalebor, £2,000 from Bradford Met toward Walkers with Wheels and £1,897.37 of Gift Aid (a total of £2,263 has been claimed on membership subscriptions and most individual donations).

£2,588 had been received by way of donations toward the Christmas Lights (£430 of which was from the Co-op Christmas raffle). Expenses totaled £2,120. An overall surplus of £468 had been achieved. The eventual net position is like previous years, when there would usually have been a loss of around £700, offset by income profits from the Christmas market.

The most significant outgoings since last meeting were: - £1,200 to Bradford Met and Tom Sumner £920 re the Christmas Lights. £240.00 had been spent on hedge trimming around the Cornmill Pond.

The most significant expenditure during the current period would be in connection with the playground. As well as the earmarked fund of £15,778.65 BWCT had committed around £11,000, rising to a possible £15,000.

A sum of £730 remained unspent having been allocated to the free school meals initiative.

The insurance had been renewed for £1,125, though pavilion flood cover and cover for nonexistent equipment had been removed. This would be the premium for the next 3 years.

It was also reported that Yorkshire Bank had closed their Otley branch and alternative accounts are being considered.

DECISIONS TO BE MADE

7 Burley Educational Trust (BET)

This part of the meeting was also attended by Bill Midgeley, Keith Dale, Elaine Marsden and Barbara Holden from BET to enable them to express their views or comments as appropriate. DA indicated that he had identified 5 areas of discussion or where decisions needed to be made or progressed.

Type of Approach/Option to be Adopted

There is unanimity amongst the BWCT trustees that a full merger should be pursued i.e. option 3 under the Wrigleys report. This would mean that the assets of BET would be transferred to BWCT. According to the report this would be pursued initially on the basis of the BET fund still being restricted, but subject to the issue over lifted the permanent endowment (see below). It was duly resolved by the BWCT trustees that this was the option they would look to pursue.

Lifting of the Permanent Endowment

It was agreed by a significant majority of the BWCT trustees that this would also be the preferable outcome, as it would provide maximum flexibility for BWCT in using not only income but, in appropriate and very exceptional circumstances, any capital.

The BWCT treasurer Mark Ellsworth (ME) was not present for the meeting but had provided some helpful thoughts beforehand. His view which was supported by a significant majority of other BWCT trustees was that the fund could still be treated as though it were a restricted fund within BWCT accounts and identified accordingly. It would be resolved that the capital of the fund would only be considered for use in very exceptional circumstances with this policy perhaps being reviewed on an annual basis. In other words, it would be accepted by BWCT trustees that there was still a moral obligation not to spend the capital unless in exceptional circumstances, without there being the strict legal constraint of a permanent endowment. BWCT would still be bound by the objects of BET on which the assets (whether still subject to permanent endowment or not) were transferred.

ST mentioned that her preference would have been to look at the permanent endowment position perhaps 3 years after the merger, to see whether it could be lifted then. However, at the same time it was accepted that this would cause additional costs now and the most economical way of proceeding would be to try to lift the permanent endowment as part of the process of merging BET into BWCT.

Bill Midgeley from BET confirmed that his concern, if the permanent endowment were lifted, would be that the fund could be swallowed up by other commitments. It was noted that the BET trustees would need to have a separate meeting following the BWCT meeting to decide on their own position in this regard and on other issues arising from the discussion.

It was understood that it was not a "given" that the Charity Commission would approve the lifting of the permanent endowment. However, the fact that income has been below the £10,000 a year level for some time will prove helpful in any application to the Charity Commission for the lifting of the permanent endowment.

The predominant view of the BWCT trustees was that there should be a strong commitment to using the funds for educational purposes as originally envisaged, though trying to achieve as much flexibility in the use of the funds as possible and to try to avoid the legal restrictions that a permanent endowment would bring.

Income

DA confirmed that the income up to the time of the merger would still need to be dealt with under the original BET objects and subject to the restrictions to that date. This sum was likely to be in the region of £28,000.

Going forward, it was agreed there needed ideally to be more flexibility in relation to how income (and capital if the permanent endowment could be lifted) could be used. At the moment the restriction is for income to be used for children i.e., under 18's. It was also restricted to the 3 schools in Burley. In fact, the BET trustees have already gone beyond those objects (BM explained)

to assist young people trying to travel/volunteer, assisting the Brownies and Guides with funding and £4,000 had also been committed to the playground.

There was a discussion as to what age range BWCT would want to take on in terms of the commitment to educational purposes. It was agreed that ideally the age limit should be removed entirely given the challenges that lie ahead in the next few years there will be a lot of (younger) adults who will need support in this regard. If this is not possible, attempts should be made to extend the age limit to 25. Again, possibly there could be a commitment to, where possible, go along with the original objective which was to support children's educational needs but with the flexibility to go beyond that as and when appropriate.

Geography

The objects of BWCT are for a wider area than BET. BWCT's area of benefit includes Burley Woodhead whereas the BET objects are purely for the Parish of Burley. It was agreed and hoped that this would not be an issue in relation to the merger. Hopefully it could be included in terms of the widening of the scope of the way BET assets, which were being merged in to BWCT, could be used.

Crossover Trustees

There had been an indication from Wrigleys that not more than one BET trustee should be a crossover trustee. This possibly relates to the position and identity of trustees during the merger process. The BWCT trustees could not see in principle any difficulty in existing BET trustees joining BWCT after the merger. All those present noted that the BET trustees would, of course, need to observe/fulfill the wider role of a BWCT trustee in terms of all relevant charitable purposes in accordance with the objects. DA noted that there were 11 trustees at present and it was possible to have a maximum of 18.

8 Christmas Lights

The up-to-date funding position had been covered in the treasurer's report. Grateful thanks were given to Tom Sumner and his team.

It was confirmed that the lights in the park would remain until end of March.

9 Youth worker commitment from April 2021

LH reported that a meeting had occurred earlier in February and had been attended by Reece and Ashlan as well as LH, DA and NS from BWCT. Six young people had been identified who needed particular support.

There had been access to the Queen's Hall since the previous Wednesday for Youthquake meetings. Contact details for youth workers were now on the website.

LH was also in contact with Debbie Cox from Burley Parish Council to talk about further funding focused on a small group. It would be very helpful and positive to have their support. Funding for a larger group would be discussed. A steering group is to be formed which would comprise of equal numbers of adults and young people.

Grateful thanks were again recorded to LH for her efforts and time commitment to this.

10. Herb garden

The first garden is now operational and situated on the village green. A site near Aireville Terrace is being considered for the next one. Penny Wright is spearheading efforts to acquire some old railway sleepers in connection with a potential site near the Library.

11. Walking with Wheels

Paths at Scalebor (near the playground) and near Prospect Road/Jumpbeck Close were all in need of work, to make fit for wheelchair/push chair use. Tarmacking had been recommended. Attention was also need to the surfaces at East End Allotments, but permission is needed from members of the allotment for a full job to be done. Funds of around £3,700 are now available for these projects.

12 Membership and Quarterly prize draw

NT reported there were now 506 full members and 1014 linked members.

The membership renewal process for 2021 would be covered at next meeting as would associated publicity such as fliers.

13 Village maps

NS had walked the history trail and was in touch with the History Group and will progress matters. It is still hoped that Ian Middleton will provide illustrations. Likely sites for the maps will be the Grange Park and the Station.

REGULAR UPDATES

14. Zip wire and playground project

DA reported that the playground equipment is in the process of being installed. Ground surfacing for the zipwire needs to be laid, but the zipwire equipment is now up.

15. Scalebor and Greenbelt

NT has take on the role of liaising with and regular invoicing of Greenbelt.

As last year, it is hoped that the joint maintenance contract for drainage etc can be arrange so that Scalebor can be dealt with at the same time as the other recreation grounds in Burley. BWCT, BPC and the Football Club would each then contribute £4000 to the overall cost.

Separately the football club are applying for a large grant from the FA on the back of the size of the club (300/350 juniors, including 4 girls' teams).

DA mentioned that the proposed extension to the football season may cause an issue with the starting of the cricket season.

16. Roundhouse Garden

The 4 benches are in place with plaques and the project is completed.

17. Website

HB reported that an updated the new version of the website should be online in the next fortnight or so.

18. Marketing, communications, and social media

NS confirmed that the next BWCT newsletter would be ready for publication shortly.

19. Litter picking

LH reported that this had continued to prove very successful with 63 members attending on one occasion. The number is usually around 25 and the number attending are often now divided into 3 groups to go around different areas. 56 collecting areas in the village have been identified.

Some regulars were continuing to do doing extra duties outside scheduled sessions.

Signage was being considered although the effectiveness does need to be thought about.

LH was thanked again for organizing and promoting this.

20. Other projects – brief updates.

- Tom Sumner had agreed to again sort out Hanging Baskets and planters in 2021.
- The Fountain of Life had been cleaned.
- the Corn Mill Pond hedge had been cut.
- In relation to benches for walkers it was intended to acquire 4 at once which should mean a 5th can in effect be acquired for free. The likely locations are Sun Lane, the nature reserve, Stead court and Leather bank. The order for benches will be placed through BPC and payment of £1399 made for the net cost. Sponsorship of £1114 has already been pledged towards this cost from different sources.

21. Other projects being considered – brief update:

- The skate park concept is also to be looked at by the Parish Council.
- Men's sheds. Local discussions are taking place with Ilkley, Otley and Menston. Bradford City council are also supportive.
- Drinking fountain -deferred until next meeting

21. AOB and next meetings

Duck Race 2021 - This had been provisionally set for 20 June 2021 but may be rescheduled to 27th June by when restrictions will hopefully have been eased further.

Next meetings – **11th May**; 13 July; 12 October