

Burley in Wharfedale Community Trust

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at the Library, Burley in Wharfedale on Tuesday 8th March 2022

Present: Duncan Ault (DA) (Chair); Mark Elsworth (ME); Andrew Wriglesworth (AW), Niccola Swan (NS) ; Jan Edwards (JE).Lorraine Hughes (LH); Nick Turnbull (NT); Harvey Bosomworth (HB); Shirley Moffat (SM), Barbara Holden (BH)

In attendance: Keith and Elaine? Stephen Carruthers also attended for item 9

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and Trustee interests:

Apologies had been received from Sylvia Tilford, Elaine Marsden (EM), and Tim Brooke.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2022

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising.

All matters arising were covered in the meeting.

4. Correspondence

There had been correspondence regarding the transfer of the Blackrock and Schroders investments from BET to BWCT. An official letter had been obtained from the Charity Commission which should hopefully assist with the process.

Correspondence from Greenbelt was dealt with at 11 below.

There had been correspondence with Shipley Community Chest regarding a grant for the garden at Jumb Beck Close.

DA is to put in a funding application for a compost facility at Grange Park to be used in connection with Park community clear ups

A local organisation, GALBA, which was campaigning against the expansion of Leeds Bradford Airport had also invited support, though it was understood this would an individual decision for each BWCT trustee and member.

5. Trustee matters /interests

During the meeting, in discussing item 7, NS and DA mentioned their separate involvement with the Burley Bridge Association.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

It was noted that the value of cash assets for the Trust (ignoring the BET assets) stood at £82,106.43 as of 3rd March 2022, having been £67,924.88 on 1st October 2021.

Of this figure, £2,559.45 was reserved for the Corn Mill Pond, £5,680.83 for the Christmas Lights, £6,554.19 for Walking with Wheels and £500 in connection with a refund to BET. This left £66,625.71 in the General Purposes Fund.

Existing and potential commitments of £6,898, including up to £3,500 for the village map, £3,000 for Youthquake, £300 for Plastic Free Burley and £98 for the website, reduced the 'available' general funds to £59,727.71.

Amounts received for specific projects were £500 from Bradford Met for Cleaner Streets, £300 from Community First and £500 from Bradford Met for Men's sheds, £1800 from Bradford Met for an environmental project.

The sums that may also be committed to other projects totalled £11,000. This included a further potential commitment of £6,000 for a youth support worker for Youthquake, which it had been agreed would in fact be spread over a 3-year period and £5,000 for a Drinking water fountain. If these all proceed, then available general funds would reduce to £47,927.71

Main receipts since last meeting were £3,986 from Greenbelt in respect of Scalebor, £2,350 of gift aid, £6984 had been generally collected and a former £500 BET grant had been repaid.

The most significant outgoings since last meeting were: £1,157.58 bring annual insurance; £2,500 contribution to Burley Trojan's architect fees; £200 for hedge trimming around Cornmill pond.

It was estimated that a sum of around £2,000 was due to HGM (taking into account an agreed £500 deduction to reflect the foregone final months receipt on the Greenbelt contract)

ME confirmed that a two-stage verification process had been set up for online payments by BWCT. This should reduce the risks of hacking types of fraud. To date ME and DA had been involved, but it was agreed that steps would be taken so that NS would be enabled to provide authority, in case of holiday or other absence of either ME or DA.

It was agreed that the reserves policy for BWCT should at this stage be set at a minimum of £15,000 of uncommitted funds to be held in the general fund. A note would be added to the end of the accounts reviewed at each meeting, by way of reminder.

7. Funding applications

The Burley Bridge Association had applied for a grant of £500 to put toward the cost of a booklet and signposting for the Yorkshire Heritage Way, which is to run from Bradford to Ripon, with Burley being the terminus of the first stage. This would go toward meeting an overall target of £5,000. On the basis that Burley was at the end of the first stage of the walk, and it would encourage visitors to the village and assist local businesses, it was agreed that the donation should be made.

Burley Festival had asked for a £500 commitment to back up the cost of play equipment (Spider Mountain) in case of financial difficulty. The overall cost of the equipment was £1,325 plus VAT. This was agreed though it was indicated and agreed that it would be preferable for any profit made by

the festival to go to local charities. It was noted the festival were below their notional cash reserve due to difficulties arising from the pandemic.

DA reported that, separately, the idea of the festival being taken under BWCT's wing had been mooted.

8. Membership renewal

NT reported that currently 503 full members had joined (as compared to 490 last year) equating to around 980 linked members.

DECISIONS TO BE MADE

9. Cornmill Pond

Information about the history of the site and BWCTs involvement had been circulated before the meeting. Stephen Carruthers who resides with his wife at Weathervane Cottage (which is opposite the pond) was in attendance to provide further background. Stephen and his wife hold a lifetime tenancy, which enables them to park on part of the gravel area immediately adjacent to the pond. The rest of that area is owned and used for parking by the owners of Cornmill House.

Although BWCT pays for certain maintenance costs (out of a capital sum originally left by the late Miss Maudsley) Stephen and his wife carry out other maintenance tasks and have most recently kept some Indian Runner ducks on the site. They also help with the security of the site in trying to keep the gates close when not being used.

The concern is as to what successor arrangements should be put in place. Stephen would be keen to see that any successor showed similar commitment to help with the maintenance and security of the site. It was agreed the matter need thought and some legal input would also be needed.

10. Burley in Wharfedale Educational Trust (BET) and BWCT merger.

As mentioned earlier ongoing steps are being taken to transfer the investments to BWCT. The BET bank account also needs to be closed and funds moved across.

NS in conjunction with BH, EM and SM, has prepared a draft policy regarding distributions and the next stage is to liaise with the two main schools in Burley i.e. Burley Oaks and Burley Woodhead to get them starting to think more creatively as to how funds might be used. EM will prepare a draft letter, which might suggest that projects encouraging music, drama, dance and theatre could be considered.

DA, ME, AW and NS are the sub-committee, assisting with financial aspects, with help from BM

11 Scalebor

DA confirmed that an email had arrived from Greenbelt terminating the contact (which had run for 11 years) as at the end of March 2022. This seemed to be connected to the installation of a new management regime at Greenbelt. In turn, BWCT had terminated contractual maintenance arrangements with HGM.

The notional cash surplus on the contractual arrangements, used to cover pavilion costs, annual maintenance (slitting and sanding) of the pitches (and which in practice had enabled BWCT to invest a significant capital sum into the original drainage measures taken in relation to the pitches) would not be available going forward.

It was agreed that BWCT 'S contribution of £4,000 for this April's pitch maintenance costs (for which in effect funds had been accumulated) would be paid for by BWCT again this year. However, whether this was affordable going forward would need to be reviewed. It was confirmed that Burley Trojans (and the Cricket club) would be advised of the concern on this front as soon as possible.

It was agreed that a brief letter explaining the situation should be prepared and left with residents.

In terms of other upcoming costs DA mentioned that the pavilion needed painting and its gutters clearing, with the car park also needing attention.

12 Pump Track

DA reported on continuing discussions with Sam Newman concerning this potential project. An initial quote had been obtained for £175k. This was higher than first anticipated because of access issues. A second quote is awaited.

It was confirmed that BWCT's role is to facilitate the project; whilst some relatively small financial contribution might be made, it was clear that the funding would very much for the most part have to come from external sources.

Bradford City Council continues to be supportive of the idea and may make some small financial contribution.

13 Jumb Beck Close

An area of land between the school fence and the stream is to be cleared and then managed. It belongs to Bradford Education department and a grant has been received from Bradford Council for an environmental project (£1,800) which in effect covers the main cost. There is a £200 cost for a tree survey, but Bradford Council will then manage and be responsible for the trees going forward.

14. Hanging Baskets

This will be funded as usual by BWCT

15. Christmas Lights - 26 November 2022

ME had produced a separate set of accounts to explain the financial outcomes of the lights event for the last 3 years. The figures showed that the surplus made in 2021 was due mainly to a £4,000 grant from Bradford Council. Otherwise, there would have been a loss of nearly £800. That said, in a 'normal' year, income from the market might lead to a break-even position.

16 Duck race 5.6.2022

This is now due to take place on Jubilee weekend. The Guides will do teas in the park.

17. Walkers are Welcome (and with Wheels)

Numerous benches have now been installed in various locations around the village and its environs.

The Allotment path project is to proceed in April/May and the necessary work is going to tender, with costs likely to be around £6,000. BWCT already has £6,500 of funding in place.

18. Village information board

NS has now located a designer based in Burley who is able to assist and understands what is required. He is happy to work for free but would encourage BWCT to donate to Burley Trojans which was in principle agreed.

19. Village Youth provision

It was reported that Unique is conducting 3 course a week in Burley Oaks focusing on the mental health needs of the children. This will be funded with help from the Co-op money with the Co-op being keen for funds to be used for this sort of purpose.

Separately, Bradford Council have asked the Parish Council for the use of the Queens Hall, for other youth support work and this is to be considered by the Parish Council later in the week.

There is the possibility of independent youth provision in the village which would involve a youth worker employed by the Methodist church. It is hoped this could begin in September. The point arises as to whether BWCT should be (financially) supporting an initiative with a religious element and or which might impact on whether certain children might attend. On the other hand, there was a view that it would be better to have some youth provision of this sort than none.

LH reported that she is reducing her involvement in Youthquake, having put so much time and effort into this and related initiatives in recent years.

20. Herb garden

Three gardens remain operational, one on the village green and two raised beds in Grange Park. Unfortunately, the two in the park continue to be vandalised, and then restored by the providers.

21. Website

HB reported that this is in place and operational.

22. Newsletter and publicity

NS will progress the newsletter in April.

23 Litter picking and the Wombles

A Wombles logo has been found and is permissible. 4 additional streets are now being covered. The litter pick triangle will be available shortly.

24. Gardens, Pond, Fountain of Life maintenance

The recent road accident, which has damaged the surround of the Pudding tree, was noted. The insurers of the motorist will meet the cost of repairs.

25 Men's sheds

After a good start last September, with around 20 attendees, recent attendances have reduced to a particular and small group of familiar faces. It was indicated that leadership was needed and a decision as to whether the group would engage in practical activities or would be mainly social.

26. AOB and next meetings.

Next trustees' meetings – May 3rd, July 12th and October 11th.