

FOSSIL GROVE TRUST

MEETING OF TRUSTEES

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL 2021 AT 10.00

BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Present: Walter Semple (WS) (Chair); Bailie Ade Aibinu (AA), Elizabeth Brown (EB), Councillor Feargal Dalton (FD), Michael Herrigan (MH); David Webster (DW); Ian Veitch (IV),

Apologies: Campbell Forrest (CF); Councillor Maggie McTernan (MM), Neil Robertson (NR).

1. Meeting with Property and Land Services of Glasgow City Council

This will take place at a later date. EB reported that Fiona McKinnon will retire at the end of June.

2. Minute of the Trustees Meetings on 27th January and 1st March 2021.

These were approved.

3. Treasurers Report/Bank Account

IV has arranged payment of the invoices for recent roof and drainage repairs.

Glasgow City Council has in the past conducted banking business for the Trust. It has decided to withdraw from this. The work of IV in trying to open a new bank account for the trust in the present circumstances had met up with delay and conditions that could not be fulfilled.

IV proposes that Geological Society of Glasgow acts on behalf of FGT to make payments to their suppliers. This would be achieved by FGT making a donation to GST which would be classed as a "Restricted Fund" available only for payments requested by FGT. The arrangement would last until FGT had its own bank account and would require a return of any balance to FGT when the arrangement ends. Initially £10,000 would be transferred from FGT to GSG to set up the Restricted Fund. The arrangement had been approved in principle by GSG. A suitable resolution would be drafted for submission to the Council. This proposal was approved in principle.

4. Financial Report

The trustees noted the March report from Ruffer, and that the investments under their management were continuing to perform well.

5. Report on Priority Building Repairs

DW spoke to his detailed written report. The content was noted. The roof leak and further drainage repairs had been carried out in March. The monitors are indicating that humidity appears to be reducing overall. The fossil floor was now much drier and this has highlighted areas of salt deposition. DW is contacting HES for help in having this removed. DW will attempt to compare monthly humidity over the time that the monitors have been operational to assess whether there has been a discernible reduction in overall humidity since the installation of the roof vents and the roof and

drainage repairs. Some damage to the ceiling and lighting in the toilet was discovered during a site meeting to assess the roof repairs. This was as a result of a burst water-pipe in the feed to the water tank above the toilet. The water was duly turned off. DW had contacted the Parks staff about this, and Drew McMillan raised a job with the Council's plumbers. Nothing has yet been done. DW to contact Drew again.

Glasgow City Council will not open the building this summer. The Geological Society of Glasgow has set up a working group to arrange volunteer-led opening on selected days during the summer when the Covid risk was minimal. This would include a Doors Open Day event on 19/9 and possible event(s) around the COP26 conference.

6. Renovation Project.

DW presented a written report. He referred to the meeting of trustees on 1st March when it was decided to award the building condition survey and feasibility study work to Smith Scott Mullen Associates at a price of £20,190. An application for a Project Viability Grant of £10,000 had been submitted to the Architectural Heritage Fund and a copy had been provided to the trustees. The grant application was expected to be decided in mid-June. It was agreed that the Trust would fund the SSM work – less the amount (if any) awarded by the AHF. DW had contacted Jamie Bateman of SSM and will keep him updated on the progress of the grant application.

7. Victoria Park Community Trust

The Memorandum of Understanding had been signed by WS and MH. MH would send one of the signed copies to WS for storing with the Trust records.

8. Possible Fossil Grove SCIO

WS referred to his letter to the trustees of 31st March and the note of meeting on 24th March dealing with Community Asset Transfer under the Community Empowerment Legislation. EB had discussed with Fiona McKinnon the necessity of having details of the person who would take over her roles, including with the Fossil Grove Board, once she retires. EB also suggested the People Make Glasgow Communities initiative may be a route the Board could consider as appropriate.. This was noted pending the proposed discussion with Property and Land Services. EB also suggested the Board should thank Fiona for all her support over the years.

9. Fossil Grove Fernery Project

The written report from DW on the fernery project was noted. It was previously agreed that 50% of the £4,500 project would be funded by the Trust. Arrangements would be made with IV and Friends of Victoria Park for making the agreed payment of £2,250 for the fern purchase aspect of the project. Any trustee would be welcome to join a fern planting and maintenance working party. These are planned for the first Saturday of each month at 10.00 am. Contact DW to arrange.

10. Future Meeting Dates.

25th August; 27th October 2021. A date for the meeting with Glasgow City Council would be fixed and intimated as soon as possible