

MINUTES OF THE FOSSIL GROVE TRUST MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2020 AT 10.00

BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Present: Walter Semple (WS) (Chair); Bailie Ade Aibinu (AA), Councillor Feargal Dalton (FD), Councillor Maggie McTernan (MM), Campbell Forrest (CF); David Webster (DW); Ian Veitch (IV),

Apologies: Elizabeth Brown (EB), Michael Herrigan (MH); Neil Robertson (NR).

1. AGM.

- 1.1. The minute of the previous AGM on 29.10.2019 was noted and approved.
- 1.2. The Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2020 with the Report of the Independent Examiner and the Treasurer's comments were approved.
- 1.3. The Chairman, WS, the Treasurer, IV and the Independent Examiner, Brian O'Neill were all elected to these offices for the coming year.

2. Minute of the Trustees Meeting on 28th August 2020.

This was approved.

3. Bank Account

IV reported that transactions were still being carried out through Glasgow City Council. No bank account had yet been opened which was unsatisfactory. The chairman suggested opening an account with Triodos Bank. This was a subsidiary of a large Dutch bank with a focus on environmental business. He would send information to the Treasurer.

4. Financial Report

The trustees noted the 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 report. Gutter cleaning was needed at this time of year. Volunteers from Friends of Victoria Park had offered to help with this. A working party took place on the first Saturday morning of each month, and trustees were welcome to join it. Following recent repairs the fossil floor had become practically dry. The pending roof repairs would improve the situation further. The minor water ingress through the bedrock on the south elevation of the building did not pose a significant threat and in any event was a feature of the building which would remain.

6. Future of Fossil Grove.

CF and DW spoke to their written report. The trustees encouraged them to pursue the course that they recommended. The following points were made in the discussion.

- Was it realistic to expect the works to be carried out in time for the Climate Change Conference scheduled for 1st to 12 November 2021? Might this assist in fundraising? CF and DW said that they would take this into account, but it was too early to say.

- Could CF and DW establish a program for the project as soon as it was practical to do so and keep the trustees informed?
- Was there any plan for fundraising? Might this be explored at this stage so that when the time came the necessary steps could be taken quickly to start fund raising? CF and DW said that they would take this into account, but it was too early to say.
- The legal structure for taking forward the project would have to be agreed with Glasgow City Council as soon as possible so as to establish the approach to funders.
- How would the management of the project proceed? CF and DW will take the project forward and will keep the trustees informed. If the trustees considered that any ad hoc meetings of trustees are needed before the January meeting they will arrange this.
- Any application form submitted to the Architectural Heritage Fund will be shown to the trustees before submission.
- Were CF and DW seeking the assistance of the Geological Society of Glasgow? DW said that he and CF has well as the chairman and the treasure were all members of the Council of the Society and would be discussing what assistance might be obtained.

7. Future of the Fossil Grove trust

The Chairman had given preliminary consideration to the formation of a SCIO to replace the current trust deed. In principle a single tier SCIO was more suitable than a two tier SCIO. However this might be affected by any arrangement made with Glasgow City Council as they had indicated a wish to use the Community Empowerment legislation. The way in which this legislation was framed might affect the form of SCIO. The arrangements agreed with Glasgow City Council needed to be established before any final decision was made.

8. Glasgow City Council

Seamus Connolly had replied to the chairman's letter on 9th September. This had been circulated. He suggested that the trustees use the Community Empowerment legislation for asset transfer. The chairman was of the view that FGT was not a community transfer body or community controlled body and therefore not able to benefit from the asset transfer provisions. He wondered if the Victoria Park Community Trust might accept an asset transfer followed by a long lease to FGT. MM said that VCPT had decided that it did not wish to own assets. This meant that any arrangement should involve a long-term lease direct from Glasgow City Council to FGT, or its successor SCIO. It was agreed that the Chairman would discuss this with MH who was chairman of VCPT and then with Seamus Connolly.

9. Opening Arrangements

DW said that he planned to organise open days for Fossil Grove next year based on volunteers. MM would help him with this, and they would keep trustees informed.

10. Future Meeting Dates. FD thanked the trustees for moving meetings to Wednesday

Dates for 2021:

27th January; 28th April; 25th August; 27th October.

Prepared by Walter Semple on 29th October 2020.