

MINUTES OF THE FOSSIL GROVE TRUST MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH AUGUST 2020 AT 10.00
BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Present: Walter Semple (WS) (Chair); Councillor Maggie McTernan (MM), Elizabeth Brown (EB), Michael Herrigan (MH); Campbell Forrest (CF); Neil Robertson (NR). David Webster (DW); Ian Veitch (IV), Treasurer.

Apologies: Bailie Ade Aibinu (AA), Councillor Feargal Dalton (FD),

1. Minute of the Meeting on 28th January 2020.

This was approved. Noted that no meeting had taken place in May during the Covid lockdown

2. New Trustee

Ian Veitch was welcomed as a new trustee.

3. Bank Account

IV explained that a new bank account had not been opened because of the unrealistic formalities required by the banks whom he had approached. Meantime Glasgow City Council were helpfully providing a banking service.

4. Financial Report

The trustees noted the report from Ruffer, and that the investments under their management had performed well and were continuing to do so despite an unusually volatile stock market.

The trustees noted the draft Accounts to 31.03.2020. and Commentary produced by the Treasurer and thanked him. The trustees agreed that the Independent Examiner should be remunerated in the same way as he was last year. The Accounts were approved for putting before the AGM.

5. Report on Priority Building Repairs

DW spoke to his detailed report which is attached.

The source of the magnesium pollution which was potentially damaging for the fossils had not yet been established.

Modern heating and ventilation equipment no longer required a special building but could be contained in a space around the size of a domestic fridge freezer. There should therefore be no need in future for a plant room. Proper ducting would be required and would significantly improve performance. Any change would require recommendations on

humidity and temperature levels from HES and also from expert heating and mechanical engineers based on reliable design criteria. This would be a requirement also for SNH. The trustees approved the recommendations in part 7 of the report to accept the quotation from AG Roofing of £4752 plus VAT and to reimburse DW with £411.60 p for humidity monitor expenses. It was agreed that there was no need to seek alternative quotes.

6. Future of Fossil Grove.

CF spoke to his report.

The trustees agreed to his recommendation to join the Heritage Trust Network at a cost of £110 per annum.

The trustees agreed to the recommendation of CF to apply to the Architectural Heritage Fund for support for the professional studies into the condition and future costs of maintaining the Fossil Grove building and how it should be developed for the long-term future. An

essential question was to obtain advice on whether or not the existing building could be adapted for future use or whether a new building was required. CF would draft an application for this funding and circulate it to the trustees for consideration.

7. Glasgow City Council

The trustees considered and approved the draft letter prepared by the chairman and addressed to Seamus Connolly at Glasgow City Council, subject to small alterations in the first paragraph and paragraph 10 to avoid any misunderstanding.

8. Future of the Fossil Grove trust

The form of the amended Fossil Grove trust deed was no longer suitable for the circumstances as they had developed. The trustees should have limited liability and the powers and provisions which were now routinely required.

The most suitable vehicle was a single tier SCIO, of which a number of trustees had experience. This would require decision about how the board would be appointed and would operate, the bodies which would appoint the board and the proportions in which the power to appoint would be shared by these bodies. The chairman undertook to consider these matters and make proposals for discussion by the trustees. It would be necessary to ensure that the funds of the trust could be transferred to the new body.

The trustees would need to consider the future arrangements for managing their investments and whether Glasgow City Council may agree to continue to be involved

9. Future Meeting Dates.

27th October 2020

Provisional Dates for 2021:

26th January; 27th April; 24th August; 26th October.

Prepared by Walter Semple on 25th August 2020.