

**MINUTES OF THE FOSSIL GROVE TRUST MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2019 AT 10.00
IN THE CITY CHAMBERS**

Present: Walter Semple (WS) (Chair); Councillor Maggie McTernan (MM), Bailie Ade Aibinu (AA), Councillor Feargal Dalton (FD), Elizabeth Brown (EB), Michael Herrigan (MH); Campbell Forrest (CF); Neil Robertson (NR).

Attending: Fiona McKinnon (FM)

Apologies: David Webster (DW); Ian Veitch (IV), Treasurer.

1. Minute of the Meeting on 13th August 2019.

This was approved subject to noting an apology from Fiona McKinnon

2. Matters arising:

MM said that she had asked at the previous meeting that documents of the importance of the Heritage Fund Expression of Interest, should be shown to the trustees for comment prior to be submitted.

3. AGM

- (a) The AGM Minutes of 30th October 2018 which had previously been approved by the trustees were noted.
- (b) The Chairman's Annual Report was noted and approved.
- (c) The appointment of Brian O'Neill as Independent Examiner at a fee of £150 has been approved by email and was confirmed.
- (d) The Accounts for the year ended 31st March had been prepared by the Treasurer, approved by the Independent Examiner and circulated with the Agenda. The Chairman explained that there was a change to the comparative figures for the previous year. The surplus for 2017/8 was changed from £10,714 to minus £286. The cash and bank for the year end 31st March 2018 was changed from £11,819 to £819. On that basis the Accounts were approved.
- (e) On the proposal of EB seconded by NR, WS was appointed chairman for the coming year.

4. Changes to Trust Deed

The chairman had kept the trustees informed about the progress of the application to OSCR change to the charitable purposes of the trust. The initial application had been refused. However, a different change having the required effect had been proposed on review to OSCR. The original proposal had again been refused but the revised proposal had been accepted. The trustees had already indicated their approval. The chairman accordingly proposed the following resolutions to the meeting:

1. Cancel the two resolutions to alter the Trust Deed dated passed at the trustees meeting on 13 August 2019.
2. Clause 4: Insert a new Clause 4(f) as follows:

(f) notwithstanding that Glasgow City Council, formerly City of Glasgow District Council, remains the owner of the Fossil Grove and that the agreed transfer recorded in this deed has not taken place, to take such steps as the trustees think fit to ensure conservation of the fossils in the short term and to seek a long-term solution for their future conservation.

3. Clause 8: Delete the second sentence and insert: "Such accounts shall be prepared and independently examined or audited in accordance with the requirements of the Scottish Charity Regulator, OSCR and shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Trust".

These three resolutions were passed unanimously. David Webster was not present but had indicated his approval to the Chairman.

The trustees, except David Webster, signed a declaration of these resolutions. This was witnessed by FM. The Chairman undertook to obtain the witnessed signature of David Webster as soon as possible. The Chairman would provide the necessary papers to OSCR. As the decision to pass these resolutions was unanimous, the formal procedure set out in the Trust Deed had been slightly shortened.

5. Finance Report

The trustees noted the report of Ruffer Absolute Return Fund as at 30th September 2019.

6. Expression of Interest to Heritage Fund

The Heritage Fund had written to CF on 29.08.2019 intimating that they would not be inviting the trustees to make an application to them, and no further application would be accepted for three months. This letter had been sent to the trustees after its receipt. CF undertook to clarify directly with the Heritage Fund their position following their refusal.

7. Chairman's Report and Communication from Stevie Scott.

FM read an email dated 29th October 2019 to the elected members. No written copy was provided to the meeting. A discussion took place on the basis of what it was understood to say. MM said that she would reply to it. It was proposed that two trustees attend any working party meetings.

8. Building Repairs: 1.

The trustees had seen a Minute of site meeting on 27th September attended by MH, Ken Robertson surveyor, and Jamie McLellan of TDB Preservation.

The trustees had seen an engagement letter from Ken Robertson of Westfield Surveying Services. It was decided to accept this. The Chairman would so inform Mr Robertson. MH said that Ken Robertson had given advice and work on the estimate had proceeded on that basis. The Chairman asked to see this advice in writing so that it was recorded.

MH produced the revised quotation from TDB Preservation, as approved by Ken Robertson. The amount was £11,655 plus £595 per day for truck mounted access. The trustees authorised WS and MH to accept this on their behalf. The quotation is attached.

9. Building Repairs: 2.

DW had submitted reports on Building Repairs. This stated the urgent need to speak to the Council again to deal with the serious subsurface drainage problems.

10. Environmental Monitoring Report

DW had submitted an Environmental Monitoring Report. Its conclusion was: "Scientific data collection and analysis are being severely compromised by water ingress and poor ventilation. Until these issues are fixed, most aspects of data collection are currently on hold and both the fossils and the building continue to decay. Two of the four time lapse cameras should be loaned long term to HES. Once the drainage and ventilation repairs are complete, the two remaining cameras will be set up to monitor key ingress points.

11. Visitor Numbers

DW had submitted a Report on visitor numbers which is attached.

12. Future trust meetings

28th January 2020

28th April 2020

25th August 2020

27th October 2020

Draft prepared by Walter Semple on 04.11.2019