

FOSSIL GROVE TRUST

MEETING OF TRUSTEES

HELD ON THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY 2023 AT 10.00

BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Present: Walter Semple (WS) (Chair); Elizabeth Brown (EB), Campbell Forrest; (CF); Michael Herrigan (MH); Eunis Jassemi (EJ); Ian Veitch (IV); David Webster (DW).

Attending: Henry Adomako (HA); Alex Fleming Knox (AFK); Charles Scott.

Apologies: Lana Reid McConnell (LRM); Feargal Dalton (FD).

1. Attendance

The Chairman welcomed Charles Scott as an observer. Charles had agreed to be a trustee of the new SCIO representing the Victoria Park Community Trust (VPCT).

LRM had informed WS that she had to attend a Council meeting which clashed with the Trust meetings. The trust had accommodated such clashes in the past by changing the time of trustee meetings, but it was challenging to find a time which suited everyone.

2. Minute of the Trustees Meetings on 26th October and 5th December 2022.

These were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

IV reported that the performance of the Ruffer investment fund continued to be satisfactory in volatile market conditions. The fund at the beginning of the financial year In April totalled approximately £450K. We had spent £16K and were liable to pay £15K mainly for professional fees. The balance in hand was currently approximately £420K.

4. Report on Progress of Works

DW spoke to the Progress Report which he had prepared, and which had been circulated along with the architects' proposals of October 2021, the report to the trustees on project plan of January 2022 and the quantity surveyors' Tender Evaluation Report. The trustees were presented with two options. The first was to carry out the repairs now and seek funding to complete the renovation programme. The second was to pause the programme for approximately 9 months and in the meantime to seek funding to allow the repairs programme to progress with external funding in place for future works.

The result of the tender process was that the works would cost in the region of £130K, whereas the expected cost had been in the region of £50K. This unexpected increase would deplete the trust fund by about one third.

CF explained his view that we need to have funding in place to avoid the risk of exhausting the trust funds in what was essentially repair work. He had made several attempts to contact Ewan Hyslop of Historic Environment Scotland to ask about funding but had received no response. CF favoured option 2. IV agreed, pointing out that we needed continuing funds to run the building in future. WS expressed concern that the current work was investigatory in nature. Until it was carried out, we would be unable to present funders with a specific project to fund. Following discussion, it was agreed to pause the works as proposed in option 2. The working party would meet shortly to deal with the consequences of this decision and in

particular to maintain the negotiations with the preferred tenderer, resolve remaining issues with the works proposed in the tender and explore funding possibilities.

5. Glasgow City Council

AFK reported that Gordon Fisher was now revising the Licence to Occupy. DW noted that several unresolved issues remained regarding the repair work which the City had agreed to do. There was also water ingress through the roof/clerestory join, despite the repair work which had been carried out by the Trust. The electricity supply to the sockets which had been repaired by the City Council was no longer working, consequently there was now no frost protection.

6. Environmental Monitoring

DW was continuing the monitoring work which is aiming to produce a baseline of environmental conditions over a number of seasons against which the effectiveness of the proposed phases of the renovation project can be assessed. A report would be produced for the next meeting.

7. Fossil Grove Trust SCIO

WS reported on the steps now required to bring the SCIO into operation. It was necessary to apply to OSCR to transfer the assets of the present trust to the new SCIO. Before this could be done the trustees had to resolve to transfer the trust assets and wind up the trust using their powers in the existing trust deed. He had circulated a draft resolution for this purpose. He and IV would work together to conduct this procedure. IV said that the first step would be to open a new bank account and he would attend to this. WS pointed out the need to hold a meeting on due notice. It was suggested that the procedure be carried out by obtaining written consent to the resolution from all the trustees this avoiding the need for a meeting.

8. Outreach.

DW reported that he was receiving numerous applications for visits to Fossil Grove. These included Glasgow University students, local schools, plant scientists and also musicians and artists. CF said that this information would greatly assist funding applications in view of the priority given by funders to public and community benefit.

WS 01.02.2023