



Weasenham Green **DRAFT**

Minutes of the Weasenham Green Charity
Held on Tuesday 30th January 2024
At Weasenham Community Building

Present:

Cllr M Romanovsky, Cllr T McClenahan and Cllr J Hargreaves
19 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

All trustees are present.

2. Declarations of Interest

It was noted that all trustees are Weasenham Parish Councillors.
Cllr Romanovsky is a resident of The Green.

3. To agree the minutes from the Green Charity meeting held on 14th February 2023 and Matters Arising

It was noted that both Cllr Hargreaves and Cllr McClenaghan were not present at the last meeting as they were not councillors and Cllr Romanovsky was a member of the public while at the meeting as he too was not a councillor yet. Cllr McClenaghan proposed that the minutes should be signed, this was seconded by Cllr Hargreaves and Cllr Romanovsky also agreed to sign the minutes.

4. To receive updates on the Greens Charity bank account balance, banking arrangements and payments including insurance and tree survey

Cllr Romanovsky noted that even the previous trustees were not able to access the bank account. Still currently waiting to gain full access to The Greens charity bank account. It was noted that the Parish Council paid the charity's insurance and this needs to be paid back at the earliest opportunity. Cllr Hargreaves proposed that this could be done without coming to another meeting, this was seconded by Cllr McClenaghan and Cllr Romanovsky also agreed.

Cllr McClenaghan proposed that £456.00 for the tree survey should be paid, this was seconded by Cllr Hargreaves and Cllr Romanovsky also agreed.

5. To discuss the maintenance of the green areas of the village including the Recreation/Playing Fields, Village Green and any other green spaces

It was noted that this item should read – To discuss the maintenance of the Village Green

Cllr Romanovsky noted that there has been uncertainty about the responsibility of the village green in the past and felt that the trustees need to take some professional advice to be able to confidently move forward. It was noted that maintenance will include grass cutting and the bridge. The responsibility of the roads and tracks needs to be clarified.

Cllr McClenaghan noted that grounds maintenance costs take up a lot of the budget from the Parish Council and this needs to be reviewed this coming year to make sure it is worthwhile.

Currently the Parish Council acting as the Trustees of the Charity has some outline costings from the 2023 provider for all the individual areas that need grass cutting. The current provider is happy to carry on again this year without any increase to their charge. Cllr McClenaghan noted that in the future the charity will need to find its own source of income if it must pay for the grass cutting. The charity may need to go to the Parish Council for a S137 donation. At present the Parish Council does have a separate figure for The Green grass cutting from the current contractor. The ground maintenance would need to include weed control too and other individual matters.

6. To discuss repairs to the bridge and agree funding repairs to a maximum amount

Cllr Romanovsky noted that the pond restoration group has done some maintenance around the pond already. The bridge needs some repairs too. Cllr Romanovsky noted the cost from earlier research and would like to have the authorisation to spend a maximum amount based on those figures, before seeking costs from other providers. Cllr McClenaghan proposed that a £100 max for this project should be the authorised spend. This was seconded by Cllr Hargreaves and Cllr Romanovsky also agreed.

7. To receive an update on the tree survey including any tree work required and to resolve to pay from the Greens Charity account, the invoice that has recently been presented

Payment was considered and agreed at item 4. Cllr Romanovsky noted that there is now other work that needs doing as part of the tree survey. The survey says exactly what needs doing. It was agreed the Clerk would seek to get 3 quotes for the tree work for consideration.

8. To receive an update regarding any further maintenance work on the pond and agree any actions necessary

Cllr Romanovsky noted that the wooden planks that are holding back the bank are rotted away and this needs to be looked at in detail and to consider if they need to be replaced or other action needs to be taken. Cllr McClenaghan suggested that grants are sought for this maintenance work.

9. To discuss the Wayleaves for the Village Green

Cllr McClenaghan noted that there are 2 poles that should attract a wayleave income. There are also properties that may attract a crossing wayleave. This needs to be fully looked into so that the charity can get all the income that is due to it. Cllr Romanovsky would like comments from residence and will invite parishioners to speak at end of meeting.

10. To discuss the deteriorating condition of the gravel tracks across the Village Green

Cllr McClenaghan feels that there is conflicting information about who is responsible for the upkeep of the tracks/paths across the green. The trustees realise this is a contentious issue and that the charity will need to take advice in regard to this, so the trustees are clear on how to move forward and fair to all those involved. Cllr Romanovsky noted the discussions he has had with parishioners and again noted that there needs to be a clear resolution. If charity is responsible, there is not much money in the charity bank account so the charity will need to

find the funds. Again, it was agreed the charity needs to seek a definite conclusion and this could affect grant applications. Cllr Romanovsky recognised that the potholes across the green are in some areas very bad. Previous councillors had looked at getting some material to fill potholes on a temporary basis, however there may be a need to have a certain material to fill the potholes. It was agreed there is a need for professional legal advice as this is too involved for the trustees to have knowledge of.

11. To receive and agree any other correspondence regarding the Green

Nothing further than has already been agreed.

12. To agree the date and time of the next meeting

21st May 2024 at 6.15pm

Meeting closed at 6.50pm

There was some public discussion after the meeting regarding the potholes, easements and where the responsibility for these lies.