

Special Meeting of the Board

Manor House, Grange Road, Malvern

Thursday 26th January 2012 at 6:00 pm

Present: Mrs S Adeney, Rev'd C Attwood, Mr R Chamings, Mr R Cousins, Mrs L Deller, Mr S Ginn, Mr D Hawkins, Mr P Hughes, Mr T Musgrove (Vice Chairman), Mr B Pilcher (Chairman), Mr D Street, Mr J Tretheway, Mr P Tuthill, Mr P Watson, Mr T Yapp.

In Attendance: Administrative Officer, Mr K Douglas, and 4 members of the public.

The Chairman apologised for omitting a formal welcome to Mr D Street at the Ordinary Meeting of the Board held on 12 January 2012 and extended a warm welcome to Mr D Street on behalf of the Board.

The Chairman reminded members that on the 9th February 2012 at 6:30 pm members will have an opportunity to meet the shortlisted candidates selected for interview for the post of Director. An informal function will be held at the Malvern Hills Hotel after which at 7:00 pm the first workshop session for Board member will be conducted at Manor House. The Chairman urged members to attend the workshop which is an informal forum for discussion.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr D Baldwin, Mrs G Rees, Mr R Hall-Jones, Mr C Rouse, Mr C Smith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr B Pilcher and Mr P Watson both declared a non prejudicial interest as a member of the Board during the St Ann's Well Cafe renewal period.

3. INQUIRY COMMITTEE – TO RECEIVE A PAPER FROM REV'D C ATTWOOD

Rev'd C Attwood thanked members for attending the meeting. Rev'd C Attwood presented Paper A together with a breakdown of the proposed £5,000 budget.

A discussion ensued and the following points were raised:

- The Committee has not approached the Law Society. Mr K Douglas will be sitting on the Inquiry Committee to offer advice.
- Legal advice sourced from Kingsley Napley in London has produced guidelines on what people can and can not submit as evidence.
- The Board set up the Inquiry Committee to respond to various issues of the St Ann's Well matter and the escalating problem of incurred legal fees that had not been in the budget. The Inquiry Committee will need a budget in order to proceed in its business in a fair, thorough and public inquiry.
- The amount of the budget was questioned and the timeframe.

- It was stated that submissions received as part of the first phase of the Inquiry may require legal advice.
- It was stated that the Inquiry Committee will examine the governance of the organisation and that the budget proposed by the Inquiry Committee is inexpensive for the positive things it will achieve.
- Concerns were raised that the costs may escalate and that £5,000 represents 50% of the total legal budget for the year.
- Invitations for written submissions will be going out next week if the budget is passed, but there may also be invitations for public oral submissions, therefore legal advice will be needed.
- The Inquiry Committee will focus on the governance of the Board.

Rev'd C Attwood explained that any legal advice sought from Kingsley Napley was going to be charged at a discounted rate and that advice already sought had been provided pro-bono. Rev'd C Attwood repeated that he had declared an interest as a member of his family was a partner in the firm of Kingsley Napley, but legal advice that had already been sought or will be sought has been and will be provided by a different individual who is a specialist in this area of law.

Mr P Watson proposed an amendment to the tabled request for a £5,000 budget, that the budget for the Inquiry Committee be instead set at £1,500 now and that if additional funds are needed when there is a better understanding of the legal requirements of the Committee that there is another Special Meeting of the Board to vote on any additional sums of money. The amendment was seconded by Mr D Street. The amendment **FAILED** by 3 votes for to 8 votes against.

Mr P Hughes proposed an amendment to the tabled request for a £5,000 budget, that the budget for the Inquiry Committee be instead set at £4,000. The amendment was seconded by Mr P Tuthill. The amendment **FAILED** by 6 votes for to 8 against.

Rev'd C Attwood proposed that the Inquiry Committee be granted an initial budget of £5,000 and this was seconded by Mr T Musgrove. On an amendment of Mr P Tuthill, seconded by Rev'd C Attwood the proposal was amended to remove the word '*initial*' and that the proposal read 'that the Inquiry Committee be granted a budget of £5,000'. This was **CARRIED** by 11 votes for to 2 votes against with 1 abstention.

The meeting closed 6:45 pm.