

12 May 2022

Malvern Hills Trust
Ordinary Meeting of the Board
Council Chamber, Avenue Road, Malvern
Thursday 12 May 2022 7pm

Present: Mr C Atkins (arrived during item 8), Dr S Braim, Mr P Clayburn, Mr D Core, Mr M Davies (Chair), Mr R Fowler, Mr J Michael, Dr T Parsons, Mr C Penn, Prof J Raine, Mrs H Stace, Ms M Turner, Mr D Watkins, Mr T Yapp.

In attendance: CEO, Conservation Manager, Finance and Administration Manager, Financial Assistant, 1 members of the public.

Not present: Mrs H I'Anson

Please note – reporting items set out on the agenda which were not for decision were dealt with at an online workshop (“the Workshop”) on Monday 9 May 2022 which was streamed for members of the public. This action was taken because of the continuing high numbers of Covid-19 cases in order to shorten the face-to-face meeting.

Mr Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Mr D Baldwin, Mr R Bartholomew, Dr E Chowns, Mr D Fellows, Mrs L Hodgson, Mrs C Palmer, Mr C Rouse, Secretary to the Board.

2. Chair’s announcements

- Planned acquisition of Brewin Dolphin by Royal Bank of Canada (letter circulated to trustees)
- Mary Turner had been elected for Chase Ward (a turnout of 20 % of electors). The Chair welcomed her to the meeting
- There was a workshop on 17 May to review the draft Trustees’ Annual Report.
- A paper had now been circulated for decision for item 15 on the agenda

3. Declarations of interest

Dr Braim declared an interest in item 10 – the proposed sign was opposite his house. Mr Clayburn declared an interest in item 10 as he was friends with a number of people living in The Purlieu.

4. Public Comments

Ms Taylor was in attendance to address the meeting in relation to item 10 on the agenda.

5. To confirm the Minutes of the Board meetings held on 10 March and 26 April 2022

On the proposal of Mr Davies, seconded by Mr Michael it was **RESOLVED** (with 3 abstentions) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2022¹.

On the proposal of Mr Davies, seconded by Prof Raine it was **RESOLVED** (with 5 abstentions) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2022.

6. Appointment of newly elected trustee to committee

On the proposal of Ms Stace, seconded by Mr Fowler it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint Mrs Turner to the Land Management Committee.

7. Audit Plan

The Finance and Administration Manager said the staff were pleased that the Auditors would be attending in person to carry out the audit this year. Mr Davies confirmed that the plan included a meeting between the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Board and the Finance Administration and Resources Committee and the Auditors without staff present. There were no further comments.

8. Going concern review

The Finance and Administration Manager went through the paper. She highlighted that the Trust faced many uncertainties in the coming year but had significant reserves available, and she was happy to recommend that the Board confirmed to the auditors that the charity was a going concern. Mr Fowler said that the levy was an important factor in the going concern review. The Finance and Administration Manager confirmed there had been no major change in car park revenues in response to increased fuel prices, but these were being monitored.

On the proposal of Ms Stace, seconded by Mr Core it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to confirm to the auditors that following this review, in the opinion of the Board, the charity was a going concern.

9. Budget review – impact of inflation

Mr Davies said he knew the Finance Administration and Resources Committee would be keeping a close eye this issue.

Dr Braim and Mr Clayburn left the meeting.

10. Request for signage at the Purlieu

Ms Taylor, a resident at the Purlieu, addressed the meeting and explained why she felt it was important to install a sign. She pointed out that on line delivery services did not always give the option of providing a What3Words location. See Schedule to the minutes. The CEO referred to the paper. There were many locations around the hills where the same issues arose, and acceding to this request would lead to further

¹ There was one amendment to the draft minutes as circulated which was notified before the meeting– in item 3 of the minutes of 10 March, declarations of interest were made by *Mrs I'Anson* and Dr Chowns in relation to the toilets at Wyche Cutting and British Camp.

applications. It would be possible to place a sign on neighbouring land which did not belong to the Trust.

Points made included:

- Whilst sympathetic, allowing the sign would set a precedent.
- The CEO's decision should be supported
- The use of What3Words allowed properties to be located very accurately
- The residents should look at locating signs off Trust land
- Delivery drivers struggling to find properties was a problem in many locations, not just rural ones.

On the proposal of Ms Stace, seconded by Mr Core it was **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) to refuse the application to site a sign on Trust land.

Dr Braim and Mr Clayburn returned to the meeting. Ms Taylor left the meeting.

11. Information

The information items had been dealt with at the Workshop.

11.1 The Finance and Administration Manager confirmed that there had been some late invoices received following preparation of the draft management accounts.

12. Urgent business

There was none.

13. Date of next meeting

14 July 2022

14. Confidential

On the proposal of Mr Davies, seconded by Mr Watkins it was **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) to exclude the public for discussion of items 15 on the agenda on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the exempt or confidential nature of the business to be transacted (personnel matters).

The meeting closed at 8. 00pm