

Malvern Hills Trust

Annual meeting of levy payers

The Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pershore WR 10 1PT and live stream

Thursday 09 September 2021 7:00 pm

Present: Mr C Atkins, Mr R Bartholomew, Dr S Braim, Ms E Chowns, Mr D Core, Dr G Crisp, Mr M Davies (Chair), Mr D Fellows, Mr R Fowler, Dr T Parsons, Mr C Penn, Prof J Raine, Mrs G Rees, Mr C Rouse, Ms H Stace, CEO, Finance and Administration Manager (FAM) (by telephone), Secretary to the Board, Community and Conservation Officer, Mr D Butler, 9 members of the public.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Prof McCrae asked why the meeting was being held at Pershore. The Chair responded that the Trust had looked for other venues but had failed to find anywhere that had sufficient capacity for members of the public to attend and this venue was the best available choice.

1. Apologies for absence

Mr D Baldwin, Mr M Dyde, Mrs L Hodgson, Mrs H I'Anson, Mrs C Palmer, Ms S Rouse, Mr T Yapp.

2. To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2020

On the proposal of Prof Raine, seconded by Mr Bartholomew, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting be signed as a true and correct record.

3. Public questions

Mrs K Harris:

1. Where on the accounts was the money received from the precept payers shown and where was it shown how the money had been spent?

Officers responded that the breakdown of income was shown on page 32. The breakdown of expenditure required under the charities SORP was shown in note 6 on the same page and in note 8 page 33. The Management Accounts provided a lot more detail and these were available with the Finance Committee papers throughout the year.

2. What was the total amount at risk from the re-designation of the Trust's land by the RPA and how did it affect the future of the Trust as an ongoing concern?

The Chair said that these issues would be dealt with in the Board meeting which followed.

3. What was the likely cost of lodging a Private Bill and where were the funds to come from?

This question did not relate to the accounts for the year end 31 March 2021. The information would be made public when known.

4. Was a further increase in the levy likely and would it be used to make up the shortfall from the RPA?

This question did not relate to the accounts.

Prof McCrae

How did the amount currently levied relate to the maximum which the Trust was permitted to levy?

The FAM did not have the figure to hand for 20/21, but for financial year 21/22, the total levy was £60,000 less than the maximum figure the Trust was permitted to charge.

Prof McCrae referred to the 1909 Act. The Secretary to the Board explained that when the Community Charge (Poll Tax) was introduced the statutory basis for calculation of the levy was changed and if he wished to write in she would provide full details of the relevant legislation.

4. To receive and approve the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

On the proposal of Mr Core, seconded by Mr Bartholomew it was **RESOLVED** (with 3 abstentions) to approve the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

5. Appointment of auditors for the year 2021/22

On the proposal of Mr Core, seconded by Prof Raine it was **RESOLVED** (11 in favour, 4 against, 3 abstentions) by the levy payers present to re-appoint Bishop Fleming as auditors to MHT for the year 2021/22.

The meeting closed at 19.30