Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MAGOG TRUST held on 12th OCTOBER 2019 AT 2.00PM in the Johnson Hall, Gog Magog Way, Stapleford, Cambridge

The Secretary was appointed Chair for the Meeting.



- The Secretary noted the apology from the President of the Trust, Christopher South and around 22 apologies, together with proxy votes from 16 members all indicating 'FOR' for the Resolutions, bar 1.
- 2 The Secretary read the Minutes of the 2018 AGM, circulated to those attending, were accepted as a true record of the meeting; *proposer Bryan Davies, seconder John Coppendale*.

The Chairman updated some points arising from last year's meeting and updated the meeting on current issues.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) proposals will not involve land purchase from The Trust. As reported the Cambridge Autonomous Metro (CAM) proposed route runs across fields to the SW of the site whilst a section of hedge, deemed of 'ecological importance' instigated changes in plans to the proposed underpass in the junction between A1307 and Haverhill Road opposite The Gog. These changes have not yet been adopted.

The land opposite Magog Down off Haverhill Road has been bought; we are investigating possible reports into its long term future use. The North Down of Magog Down has been designated as an Asset of Community Value. Currently we are seeking County Wildlife Status.

Chris Bow will talk more on car park charges. Suffice to say at this point, that looking forward, with a more secure income stream, the Trustees are undertaking a Strategic Review to project over the next decade. The management team will be able to consider projects such as the recently completed boardwalk which was largely funded with grants, both from individuals and organisations, the largest from FCC Communities Foundation.

A kissing gate has been installed at the entrance opposite Wandlebury, to provide a safer exit from the site and entrance onto the off-lead dog walk. We did have our 30th Anniversary party at which we received two excellent presentations by those whom we contract to work on Magog Down: Michael Downs, and Claire and Nick Beale. Their enthusiasm and commitment to Magog Down was apparent from their presentations. The event was supported by The ACE Foundation at The Granary and by The Rayner Charitable Foundation.

As you will have read, Dr Robert Macfarlane has agreed to become a Patron of The Magog Trust, with a 'quiet presence'.

The aims of The Trust are recreation and conservation, and, in addition to the Sunday Stroll nature walk led by the Rangers, on a pouring wet afternoon, the Down has welcomed again Stapleford Fun Run and this year, Sawston Stomp when nigh on 1,000 pupils from SVC paused for a picnic lunch on North Down, during their sponsored walk from the college. Cross country runners from Cambridge University will use Magog Down later in the year.

One of the teachers from SVC to whom I was speaking, told me that she thought Magog Down was only for dog walkers. She discovered all it had to offer and said "it's beautiful". It is.

Thanks were expressed to everyone for their contribution.

The Honorary Treasurer commented on the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet, as at 31st March 2019, as examined and signed. He highlighted a number of points, including the Restricted Funds, which were the monies from the Tesco Bags of Help grant spent on the formation of Bagfield. Total income of £114,185 is up compared with 2018 as is expenditure, up by £10,000. £22,000 was spent on normal activities.

A good level of income is demonstrated from farming, grants and investments. Administrations costs are increased linked to the introduction of car park charging. An operating surplus of £22,721 is shown. The car park charges have introduced a stable and more reliable income for future years.

Chris Bow then analysed car park charging which was introduced on 2nd January 2019, but notice was given of this and there was a marked increase in Friend applications prior to that date. We have incurred a loss on existing Friends' and Members' benefits as previously we didn't have to account for VAT on subscriptions and we could claim for Gift Aid. That is no longer the case. Additionally we have to account for VAT on monies taken at the machine. However, there is a projected net income of £24,000. Compliance with ticket purchase has been very good. Ros Aveling congratulated the Trust on the manner in which the charging was implemented.

Net assets of the Trust stand at £1.2m

The Treasurer commended that the meeting receive the Financial Statements and Report of Directors and Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2019. Seconded by Anthony Cooper. This was carried unanimously. The Chairman again thanked the Honorary Treasurer in his efforts and also the Administrative Secretary, Miranda Fyfe.

Question: Land purchase off Haverhill Road. Had we thought of crowd funding? Trustee, Sarah Sayer, explained that the window to arrange a purchase was very small. Approaches had been made to the vendor to sell on a charitable basis but this was not pursued. Additionally Church Commissioners were interested at a price of £2.2m. It was noted that was brought to the notice of the meeting that Gonville and Caius also own the Gogs Golf Course, and that previously, planning permission for a Golf Course had given to the Arnold Land. Its asset with views to Cambridge, to well being should not be overlooked in planning considerations.

<u>Question</u>: Path diversion on corner of Haverhill Road/A1307 in Youth Wood. It was explained that this was not associated with possible land purchase, but had taken place to alleviate wear and tear on that corner.

Question: How do we deal with dead trees? Bryan Davies explained that Ash dieback has left a number of dead trees which will have honeysuckle planted to climb up them. The process has opened up a number of potential glades. If dead trees provide a health and safety hazard they are removed. Concern has been expressed to CCC Highways about the number of dead trees along the A1307 which could be a risk to traffic. Alternative trees recommended by our arboriculturist are wild service trees, from the sorbus family.

- 4 Election of Officers.
- 5 To elect Bryan Davies and Kathleen Foreman, Directors and Trustees, retiring by rotation and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

 [Resolutions I & II]
 - Proposed Geoff Hale, seconded Anthony Cooper, carried unanimously

- 6 To confirm the appointment as Director and Trustee, Geoff Hale [Resolutions III]
 - Proposed Miranda Fyfe, seconded Jenny Barry, carried unanimously
- 7 To confirm the appointment as Independent Examiner, Tim Phillips & Co, Accountants
 - [Resolutions IV]
 - Proposed by Chris Bow and seconded by Michael Bond and carried unanimously
- 8 Ros Aveling, Chairman CPPF, expressed on behalf of the meeting, a vote of thanks to the Chairman.
- 9 There being no other ordinary business, the meeting closed.

Apologies numerous including Chris South, Jim Foreman, Sarah Coppendale, Lucy Evans, Claire & Nick Beale

Attendees F316, L1371, L1411. L15, L261, L65, L921, M1382, M1400, M1410, M1412, M1414, M1415, M98

Proxy votes M265, M1159, M1160, M79, M409, M359, M476, M35, L950, M146, M1262, M623, M243, L33, L948, L189, M794.