

## **HARRY SKELLS TRUST**

### **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY TRUSTEES MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 07 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 6.00PM**

**PRESENT** Trustee Bob Sandall  
Trustee Susan J Sandall  
Trustee Sheila Sismore  
Trustee Dave Dorson  
Trustee Marion Pitt  
Trustee Amanda Wheeler  
Trustee Angela Carter-Begbie  
Trustee Elaine Hooper  
Trustee Shaun Ford  
Trustees Lisa Brewin  
Trustee Amanda Schonhut

**ALSO PRESENT** Mrs Patricia Stuart-Mogg, Secretary  
Representative from Civic Society  
Representative from Community Orchard Group  
Representative from The Way Home Project

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Trustees Gloria Johnson (Chair), David Taylor (Vice-Chair), John Dawson, Breda Griffin, Andrew Croft, Steve Doyle, Joanna Winterbourne and Mr Carl Midgley, Treasurer submitted their apologies; the reasons were noted and accepted.

It was proposed by Trustee Dave Dorson, seconded by Trustee Marion Pitt and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the apologies for absence are accepted.

It was noted that Trustee Harrish Bisnauthsing and Trustee Simon Fenn were not present at the meeting.

It was proposed by Trustee Susan J Sandall, seconded by Trustee Shaun Ford and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Trustee Bob Sandall is elected Chairman in the absence of Gloria Johnson and David Taylor.

#### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Trustee Elaine Hooper declared a Personal Interest in respect of any discussion relating to the application submitted by the Truesdale Hospital as she is a resident in one of its Alms Houses, as well as in respect of the Civic Society application as she is a member of the Society.

Trustee Amanda Schonhut declared a Personal Interest in respect of any discussion relating to the application submitted by the Civic Society as she is a member of the Society's Committee.

#### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2021 had been circulated to the Trustees.

It was proposed by Trustee Susan J Sandall, seconded Trustee Amanda Wheeler and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the minutes of the meeting of 15 November 2021 are passed as a true record of the meeting. There was one abstention.

#### 4. GRANT FUNDING REQUEST

- a. **Stamford Civic Society** – The Trustees were circulated with the application from the Civic Society for the restoration of the bronze plaques around Stamford portraying the history of the town. The Civic Society representative was invited to present the application. There was debate as to the number of brass plaques identified, as initially the number was six brass plaques around the Town centre, but now the list included 44 sited throughout the Town. It was noted that any provision of grant assistance should not include maintenance of structures. The Secretary informed the Trustee that the initial dozen plaques identified around the Town centre are included on the Town Council's insurance and are the responsibility of the Town Council. It is for the Town Council to decide whether it will take on the responsibility and liability for the other bronze plaques. It was understood that some of these plaques required professional cleaning and Hirst Conservation were the only company prepared to submit a quote. It was noted that the Civic Society's application is for £3,000.00 following an understanding that Stamford Town Council had committed £2,000.00 towards this project with the Civic Society topping up any shortfall.

The second application received from the Civic Society was for grant assistance from the Skells Trust for £2,500.00 towards the installation of three Blue Plaques to celebrate prominent residents. The Society wished to honour and recognise the substantial contributions in the disparate fields of motor engineering, archaeology, and literature. These men, of humble origins, were Jack Pick who founded the Pick Motor Company and designed the innovative Pick Motor; Harry Burton who was an archaeologist and photographer and who over ten years recorded the treasures revealed after Tutankhamun's tomb was opened in November 1922; and Colin Dexter who was a crime writer and the creator of one of television's most popular detective characters, Inspector Morse. If achieved, a presentation would be made to the individual families at the Civic Society AGM. These plaques would require minimal maintenance as they are ceramic and locations have been carefully identified.

**6.20pm** – The representative from the Civic Society left the meeting.

Following discussion, the Trustees noted that the Town Council had agreed to a grant of £2,000.00 towards the restoration of the brass plaques and maintenance would be covered by the Town Council. It was for the Town Council to decide whether it was assuming the responsibility of all the bronze plaques.

**Proposal 1** – It was proposed by Trustee Steve Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sheila Sismore and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the application for the bronze plaques is declined by the Skells Trust as it should be deferred to the Town Council for reconsideration as the grant funding request is for cleaning and maintenance which are considered the responsibility of the Town Council. There was one Abstention.

**Proposal 2** – It was proposed by Trustee Amanda Wheeler, seconded by Trustee Shaun Ford and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that a £2,500.00 grant award is made to the Civic Society for the installation of three Blue Plaques. There was one vote Against and three Abstentions.

**6.30pm** – The representative of the Community Orchard Group joined the meeting.

- b. **Community Orchard Group** – The Trustees were circulated with the application from the Stamford Community Orchard Group to install an information board. The representative was invited to present the application. It was noted that the board would be located on District Council land for which permission has been granted. It will be dedicated to illustrating the history of the Orchard and the apple trees which originated

in Stamford. The grant request is for £828.00 which covers the production of the board and its installation. The Trust asked whether the information board could include acknowledgment of grant provision by the Skells Trust. It was advised that the coating of the surfacing of the notice board should be robust as weathering could result in the surfacing peeling off.

**6.40pm** – The representative of the Community Orchard Group left the meeting.

Following discussion, the Trustees considered that this application should be fully supported.

**Proposal 3** – It was proposed by Trustee Steve Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sheila Sismore and unanimously **RESOLVED** that a grant award of £828.00 is approved to the Community Orchard Group.

c. **The Way Home Project** – The Trustees were circulated with the application from the Way Home Project for grant assistance to the value of £13,000.00 towards an oral and visual art project. This project incorporates a walking, talking and sewing community art initiative celebrating the heritage of the passageways and lanes of the Town, through artwork, audio recollections and anecdotes informing how inhabitants navigate the town. During debate it was noted that the Way Home Project is an unincorporated Constituted Group of four professionals working with volunteers to deliver this community art record of the history of the lanes. There would be workshops where individuals could produce handkerchiefs depicting sections of mapped passages. Although these mementoes would be retained by individuals, the major banner will be displayed in a permanent location in the Town. It was considered that this was a very interesting project which could reach a wide range of local community groups. It was hoped that the funding could support the project and cover some of the costs of the professionals. The Trustees consider that this project although very interesting and which could eventually form part of a historical record, fell outside the Trust's criteria. Additionally, the Skells Trust does not cover the cost of individual salaries. There had been consideration to alter the criteria of the Trust to ensure that grants reach a wider remit, but the consensus of Trustees was not to alter the Trust. There was opinion that this project was a worthy venture especially at a time when the community is fragmented.

**Proposal 4** – It was proposed by Trustee Steve Carroll, seconded by Trustee Marion Pitt and **RESOLVED** by majority vote to decline the grant application as it did not meet the criteria of the Trust. There were two Abstentions.

## 5. **ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD**

a. ***Consideration of Maintenance Issues*** –

i. ***Ground Maintenance Contract 2022-2025***- The Secretary informed the Trustees that the Town Council's new Ground Maintenance Contract had been prepared for 3years maintenance of St. Michael's Churchyard. Maintenance would be for the grass in St. Michael's Churchyard to be cut fortnightly, on fifteen occasions between April and October each year. In addition, the contractor would take on at an additional cost maintenance of the shrubs and low-level tree works and any restoration work to street furniture under the responsibility of Skells Trust within the Churchyard. It was noted that the cost for grass cutting would be £75.00 x 15 cuts = £1,125.00 + VAT per year.

**Proposal 5** – It was proposed by Trustee Sheila Sismore, seconded by Trustee Marion Pitt and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the cost for grass cutting would be £75.00 x 15 cuts = £1,125.00 + VAT per year is approved.

ii. ***Litter Picking and bin emptying*** – It was noted that the Trust would continue to reimburse the Town Council for the services of the Town Council's Amenities

Operatives to litter pick and empty the bins during the week. This would currently be 3.5hrs per week @ £9.27 per hour.

- iii. *Town Council Administration Charge* – The Secretary informed the Trustees that the Town Council Administration costs e.g. telephone, postage and room hire charge are being reviewed by the Town Council and should be available at the next meeting.
- iv. *Use of St. Michael's Churchyard* - A request had been received from Art Pop-Up to use St. Michael's Churchyard on the 18 February 2022, as part of the Arts Around Town programme. A small gazebo will be assembled for an accordionist to perform.

**Proposal 6** – It was proposed by Trustee Shaun Ford, seconded by Trustee Dave Dorson and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the Trust approved the use of St. Michael's Churchyard by Art Pop-up on 18 February 2022. There was one Abstention.

The Secretary informed the Trustees that several organisations were planning events for the Platinum Jubilee. She wanted to receive some guidance as to how to respond if approached to use the Churchyard during the period of celebrations between 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

**Proposal 7** – It was proposed by Trustee Sheila Sismore, seconded by Trustee Shaun Ford and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that in principle the Trust agree that events can be held in St. Michael's Churchyard during the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5 June 2022 for the Platinum Jubilee celebration, subject to the Trust being informed of the events being proposed. There was one Abstention.

## 6. FINANCE

a. *Accounts for Payments* – The Secretary informed the Trustees that payments for approval:

- i. St. Georges PCC Grant payment of £10,000.00 (HS170521)
- ii. Truesdale Hospital Grant payment of £3,270.00 (HS 170521). It was also noted that the organisation needed an additional amount of £1,638.00 to complete the task. Following discussion, it was agreed that this additional sum should be paid.

**Proposal 8** – It was proposed by Trustee Amanda Wheeler, seconded by Trustee Shaun Ford and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the additional sum of £1,638.00 is granted to Truesdale Hospital. There was one Abstention.

- iii. Stamford Amateur Boxing Club – A further draw-down on a grant award of £2,000.00 (HS 270120) has been made towards the purchase of boxing equipment £1,125.71. This will leave a residue of £557.82 of the grant left to claim.
- iv. Independent Auditor fees, Michelle Feasey & Co Ltd £ 240.00
- v. Eon, St. Michael Churchyard Electricity bill - £10.90

**Proposal 9** – It was proposed by Trustee Susan Sandall, seconded by Trustee Dave Dorson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that all the above payments are approved.

b. *Receipts and Payments* – The Receipts and Payments schedule for the period of 01 April 2021 to 12 November 2021 had been circulated. This was examined by the Trustees. It was reported that £20,960.97 is currently available for new grants.

The Annual Return for Year End March 2021 had been submitted to the Charity Commission.

c. *Bank Mandate* - The Secretary reported that the Bank Mandate remained an issue with Lloyds Bank as a Trustees' Resolution is now required. It should be signed by

remaining existing signatories and independently witnessed and accompanied by a revised mandate variation. Following discussion, the Trustees confirmed that in addition to Harrish Bisnauthsing the additional signatories should be:

Mrs Gloria Johnson

Mrs Susan Sandall

Mrs Marion Pitt

**Proposal 10** – It was proposed by Trustee Dave Dorson, Seconded by Trustee Elaine Hooper and **RESOLVED** the following Trustees should be full signatories on the bank mandate: Gloria Johnson, Susan Sandall and Marion Pitt.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- a. *CCLA Investor Briefing* -The Chairman Bob Sandall informed the Trustees that an invitation had been received from the CCLA for an Investor Brief - Wednesday, 9 February 2022, 11.00am via Zoom. He encouraged all trustees to attend.
- b. *Raised Planter* – Correspondence had been received from a resident regarding the plaque installed on the raised planter in front of St. Michael’s Churchyard when it was refurbished. It was noted that the plaque acknowledged that the renovation work undertaken had been achieved through a legacy bequeathed by Eric Cook. Unfortunately, a litter bin which has been installed obscures the plaque and it was requested that it should be relocated. Following debate, the Trustees should inspect the location and relocate the plaque, so it is located in a more prominent position. A quote is to be obtained to relocate the plaque.

**Proposal 11** – It was proposed by Trustee Amanda Wheeler, seconded by Trustee Susan Sandall that the Town Clerk obtains a quote to have the plaque moved to a more prominent location and report back to the Trust.

- 8. NEXT MEETING** – It was agreed that the next meeting scheduled on 25 April should be cancelled as it is so close to the AGM planned for the 16 May 2022 at 6pm.

Chairman  
(The meeting closed at 7.40p.m.)