

HARRY SKELLS TRUST

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY TRUSTEES MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2024 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT Trustee Andrew Croft (Chairman)
Trustee Marion Pitt
Trustee Harrish Bisnauthsing
Trustee Max Sawyer
Trustee Amanda Wheeler
Trustee Lisa Brewin
Trustee Yvette Díaz- Muñoz
Trustee Ed Fancourt
Trustee Robin Morrison
Trustee Kelham Cooke
Trustee Joanna Winterbourne
Trustee Shaun Ford
Trustee David Scammell

ALSO PRESENT Mrs Patricia Stuart-Mogg, Secretary
Mr Carl Midgley, Treasurer
Representative from Arts Centre
Representatives from Anseres Place Management Company

1. PRESENTATIONS BY GRANT APPLICANTS

- *Anseres Place Management Company* – The representatives presented the application circulated to the Trustees in respect of a grant for £2,000.00, towards the installation of a defibrillator unit to serve the local community. It was observed that the nearest units were on the High Street and Red Lion Square which are not within four minutes' walk. It was suggested that the new unit could be installed in Wharf Road car park. It was recognised that although there are several defibrillators in the town, there isn't one in this vicinity. It was confirmed the supplier providing this defibrillator had offered a £400 contribution towards the order. It was recognised that the pads need to be replaced if the unit is used and the cabinet would need to be connected to an electricity supply to charge the battery. The organisation had only recently been formed and the accounts stand at a nil balance. At present the cost would be £1,785.00 including VAT. It was envisaged that the unit could be gifted to the Town Council to include within its defibrillator circuit.
- *Poetry Stone* – Karen Burrows from the Arts Centre was welcomed to the meeting to offer any additional information regarding potential repair work to the poetry stone. She advised that the stone is being used regularly and it would be disappointing if the current stone is to be replaced. The Chairman Andrew Croft confirmed that the poetry stone had been installed in 2017 as an initiative by the Arts Centre. It was noted that Beatrice Searle was involved in its carving and creation. The Ketton Stone was donated by the local quarry but had not weathered well. Portland, York or Limestone could be an option for replacement. The words carved on the stone are 'Step up and Speak' and 'We are all Poets'.

It was noted that the poetry stone is an asset of the Skells Trust and that the Trust could support some of the cost. Further quotes would be obtained to establish the cost of installing a replacement stone. During debate concern was expressed over the potential replacement cost.

Members of public left the meeting at 6.30pm

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Trustees Breda Griffin, Gloria Johnson, Habib Rahman, Bret Allibone, Jonathan Waples, Barry Devereux, Rhea Rayside and Jane Kingman submitted their apologies; the reasons were noted.

It was proposed by Shaun Ford, seconded by Harrish Bisnauthsing and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the apologies for absence are accepted.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None made.

4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2023 had been circulated to the Trustees.

It was proposed by Jo Winterbourne, seconded by Robin Morrison and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the minutes of the meeting of 25 September 2023 are passed as a true record of the meeting. There was one Abstention.

5. **GRANT FUNDING REQUESTS**

The Treasurer confirmed the funds available for grant awards are £20,991.66.

- i. *Anseres Place Management Company* - In respect of the defibrillator application, Ed Fancourt emphasised how vital these units are for saving lives. He was aware of someone who is also investigating a potential site for a defibrillator, and offered to investigate further.

There was a suggestion that an organization which is VAT registered could purchase the unit for the group. It was recognised that the Anseres Place Management Company was thinking of gifting the device to the Town Council. So possibly the Council could purchase the unit. Sponsorship for the unit could be investigated further as it was considered that there might be businesses along Belton Street who may offer sponsorship. The installation of the unit in Wharf Road car park could also be investigated with South Kesteven District Council. Jo Winterbourne offered to contact the businesses in Belton Street to investigate whether they might be willing to offer sponsorship towards such a facility.

- ii. *Poetry Stone* - In respect of the poetry stone a quote had been received from a stone mason to remove and replace the stone at a cost of £2,736.00 + VAT. Other organisations had been contacted for a quote, but no responses had been received.

Proposal 1 – It was proposed by Kelham Cooke, seconded by Amanda Wheeler and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that further quotes should be obtained before a final decision is made. There were two votes Against.

Proposal 2 – It was proposed by Andrew Croft, seconded by Ed Fancourt and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Trustees Ed Fancourt and Jo Winterbourne would explore the potential sponsorship for installing a defibrillator unit in the location.

Proposal 3 – It was proposed by Jo Winterbourne, seconded by Ed Fancourt, and unanimously **RESOLVED** the application for £1,785.00 submitted by the Anseres Place Management Company, is deferred to the next meeting.

- iii. *Plastic Free Stamford* – The Treasurer observed that this grant had reached its expiry date. Amanda Wheeler appraised the Trust of progress on the work and obtaining the final costs. The consensus was to extend the date of this grant and review it at the next Trust meeting.

Proposal 4 – It was proposed by Shaun Ford, seconded by Lisa Brewin and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the expiry date of this grant for £6,000.00 is extended and revisited at the April Trust meeting. There was one Abstention.

- iv. *Stamford Station Signage* – It was reported that the Friends of Stamford Station had surrendered this project to Stamford Town Council. The Town Council had received confirmation that the support funding for this project from the UK Prosperity had been confirmed in favour of the Council. Consequently, the Skells Trust match funding for this project was also being requested to be transferred to the Town Council.

Proposal 5 – It was proposed by Jo Winterbourne, seconded by Andrew Croft and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the remainder of the grant £1,467.41 is ringfenced for the Town Council completion of the Station signage project.

6. **ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD**

a. *Any issues relating to ground maintenance:*

- i. *Electrical Sockets* - The installation has been completed and the sockets are available for use.
- b. *Perimeter Wall* – Due to the deterioration of the perimeter wall a report and quote has been commissioned on potential remedial work. **Action:** Town Clerk
- c. *High Street Planter* – It was observed that although the advertising signs had been removed the posts remained anchored in-situ. The Chairman Andrew Croft confirmed that he would take this forward with the Chairman of Stamford in Bloom.
- d. *Use of St. Michael's Churchyard* – A request had been submitted for the use by Red Lion Square Crafters of St Michael's Churchyard. It was considered being in St. Michaels Churchyard could be an improvement on their current location. However, it was recognised that due to various highway works, the crafters had moved location several times already and had now returned to Red Lion Square. The Trustees considered that the prime use of the Churchyard is for reflection and not for commercial trading. In addition, the space is inadequate for the number of traders that use Red Lion Square.

Proposal 6 – It was proposed by Harrish Bisnauthsing, seconded by Shaun Ford and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the request to use St. Michaels Churchyard for the Red Lion Square crafters is declined.

Churchyard use for Charity Campaign – Clarity was requested in respect of the use of the Churchyard for charitable events. There was consensus that the location could be used by organisations for charitable and not-for-profit campaigns. Currently sanction for any such use is obtained via email, based on a majority digital ballot. As the Trust meets quarterly, it was considered that there is no reason why this system should not continue, with each request being considered on its individual merit.

Proposal 7 – It was proposed by Amanda Wheeler, seconded by Jo Winterbourne and unanimously **RESOLVED** that any request for sanction to use the churchyard for charitable and not-for-profit events continues to be obtained via email based on a majority digital ballot.

7. FINANCE

- a. *Receipts and Payments* - The Receipts and Payments schedule 01 April to 18 January 2024 had been circulated for consideration. This was noted.

The Treasurer reported that the insurance premium is due for renewal and given the small premium it was recommended to remain with the same insurance provider who is local. The renewal premium would be circulated before formal acceptance.

Proposal 8 – It was proposed by Amanda Wheeler, seconded by Harrish Bisnauthsing and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the insurance renewal for 2024-2025 should remain with the current insurance provider.

- b. *Accounts for payment* – Npower £42.10 (Electricity for St. Michael's Churchyard)

Proposal 6 – It was proposed by Harrish Bisnauthsing, seconded by Jo Winterbourne and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the invoice to Npower for £42.10 is approved for payment.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF HON. SECRETARY** – It was noted that the Town Clerk is retiring. The recruitment for a replacement is ongoing with the post being advertised. Following discussion, it was considered that the duties for the Skells Trust should not be included within the new Town Clerk's role. The Chairman Andrew Croft had understood that as the Trust only meets quarterly, Patricia Stuart-Mogg might be prepared to continue in post, however there were operational elements which would need to be considered.

Proposal 7 – It was proposed by Andrew Croft, seconded by Marion Pitt and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Patricia Stuart-Mogg should be requested to continue in the post and operational elements be examined.

9. **NEXT MEETING** – Monday 22 April AGM 2024 at 6pm.

Chairman
(The meeting closed at 7.15p.m.)