

Minutes



Westbourne

Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Charity Trustees for Westbourne Parish Allotment for Exercise and Recreation (Charity Commission number: 265105) which took place on Thursday 21 January 2021 at 7pm. The meeting was held remotely using Zoom video conferencing.

Present: Cllr Roy Briscoe, Cllr Richard Hitchcock, Cllr David Mack, Cllr Ann Pearcey, Cllr Nigel Ricketts and Clare Kennett, Clerk to the Parish Council

1. Election of the Chair: Cllr Hitchcock proposed Cllr Ricketts who was seconded by Cllr Briscoe. All were in favour and Cllr Ricketts was elected.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Lade Barker, Cllr Kate McNicol and Cllr Mike Magill.

3. Election of the Vice-Chair: Cllr Ricketts nominated Cllr Mack who was seconded by Cllr Briscoe. All were in favour and Cllr Mack was elected.

4. Declarations of interest in the items on the agenda: None.

5. Annual report: The annual report prepared by the Clerk was received by the Trustees. It was agreed to submit the report to the Charity Commission.

6. Financial report: The financial report prepared by the Clerk was received by the Trustees which outlined the total amount of grants the Parish Council has received to improve facilities and the amount of money provided by the Parish Council through its precept to maintain the recreation ground. The Parish Council's internal auditor had advised that a nil return should be submitted to the Charity Commission due to the memorandum of understanding which sets out that the Parish Council was responsible for paying all of the bills and subsidising the charity. It was agreed to submit this information to the Charity Commission.

7. Legal issues: The Trustees considered a report prepared by the Clerk.

- The Trustees noted the progress of the Land Registry registration.
- The Trustees review the S297 agreement and agreed not to make any changes.
- The Clerk gave an update on the Village Green status following advice received from WSCC and the solicitor. It was noted that the solicitor had advised, following a lengthy investigation into the Charity and the Village Green status, that the Parish Council was stuck with both registrations and would have to abide by the various restrictions. It was discussed that the Council's only plan for the land was to continue to maintain it as a recreation ground for residents to enjoy. As a last attempt, Cllr Briscoe agreed to contact WSCC Legal Services to see if he could ask their support in deregistering the village green status. It was also agreed to write to the Charity Commission to ask if the Charity status could be removed due to the incompatibility of the two registrations. However, it was noted that it was very unlikely that it would be possible to remove either registrations.

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8. Announcements and items for the next agenda: None.

9. Date of next meeting: The next Annual Meeting of the Charity Trustees is scheduled to be held on Thursday 20 January 2022 at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8pm.