

# Minutes of Management Committee of Charney Hall & Field Trust

## Virtual Zoom meeting 10<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30 pm.

### Present

#### Trustees

David Sibbert (Interim Chair)	History Group representative
Neil Dobson (Vice Chair)	Table Tennis representative
Christine Trotman (Treasurer)	Village College representative
Annabel Brown (Secretary)	Elected Village representative
Lucy Gildersleeves	St. Peter's PCC representative
Mary Castle	Parish Council representative
Philippa McRobert	Elected Village representative

Bruce Royan

Field Safety Officer

#### Members of the Public

Trevor Brown	Parish Clerk
Stephanie Wright	Woodland Project Group

#### Apologies

Evelyn Campbell	Parish Council representative
David Jones	Elected Village representative

1. Apologies for absence as above.
2. Declaration of Interests – None
3. Approval of Minutes of the Management Committee held in Virtual Zoom on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were approved.

Agreed Proposed MC/Seconded LG
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes
  - a) Donation and thank you card delivered to Richard Cox for timber storage.
  - b) It is possible to hire PAT Testing Equipment from Community First and it will be actioned as soon as lockdown allows. Action LG
5. Financial Report
  - a) Financial Report - no questions
  - b) Treasurers Report – CT further reported that additional Local Restrictions Support Grants are available for the Tier 4 and Lockdown periods. These will be paid automatically as CHAFT has already applied for the grant applicable to the National lockdown in November 2020. The amount for the current lockdown will be £2,000 every 42 days of closure. She also noted that we will need to discuss the handling of our reserves at our next meeting.
6. Hall Update – CT reported that regular checks and procedures are being carried out during lockdown which comply with insurance requirements.

The Hall will be open for the local elections in May and discussion occurred regarding increasing the hiring charge to take into account the increased heating costs (due to the need for ventilation) and necessary deep cleaning after the event. A charge of £500 was thought to be reasonable and voted for unanimously. Proposed CT/ Seconded MC

DJ has started work on the Health & Safety Assessment and Fire Inspection but further work will be delayed until after lockdown when safe access to the Hall can occur.

## 7. Field Update

- a) The Play Park is still being used and has been open since July and there is no visible deterioration apart from the bark. The underlay and the bark will need to be replaced in the Spring along with the reduction of the area containing the climbing frame/slide. Turfing of the reclaimed area will also be necessary. The formal yearly inspection is likely to take place next month. BR reported that he has taken over the management of the guarantees from DE and is able to confirm that the 20year guarantee only applied to the metal frame of the climbing frame and all the rest of the equipment is out of guarantee. He also notes that the sanitizer is not being used and tends to evaporate and children and adults appear to be only using the one gate despite notices advising a one-way system.

BR felt that dog fouling was not a big issue at the present time but one Trustee commented that they had noticed an area in the middle of the field that was being fouled. BR said he would check this.

It was suggested that the fencing might need repainting and BR thought that this could be left until the Summer.

Many thanks to Bruce Royan for his report and his continual work in maintaining the field environment.

### b) Controlling the rabbit population on Charney Field

- I. Mr Fitzgerald O'Connor employed a team to control the rabbits on his land on 2 occasions. Unfortunately, the team were subjected to extreme verbal abuse from a resident ,causing great distress to the 12year old son of a team member who was present, during the process. An incident form will be completed to document this.

A ferreting team was employed on the land to the north of the Field with limited success as the main problem appeared to have been already dealt with by Mr. Fitzgerald O'Connor's team. Therefore, the population seems to have been sufficiently controlled for the time being.

- II. Complaint from local householder – Relevant emails had been circulated to the Trustees and concerns were carefully noted. It was suggested that a further email be sent to explain the current situation. Action AB/DS

### c) Horse Riding on the Field

Resident reporting the dangerous incident involving a horse rider on the field is happy for the matter to be resolved by Management Committee only wanting safety for all users of the Playing Field. The track running along the Polo Pony field is a footpath and therefore horses are not permitted on it. Horses have been observed to use this path. The County Council has been consulted and is happy to upgrade the path to become a bridleway therefore allowing horses access to it. However, this bridleway would need to be approximately 4m in width.

Trustees discussed the matter at length and felt that having a wide straight bridleway would allow for it possibly to be used as a canter strip potentially making the mix of horses, people, dogs and children more hazardous than it is at present. The playing field has been much more widely used in recent time and this usage is likely to increase with the development of the woodland area. A proposal was made that 'The Management Committee is not minded to pursue the changing of the status of footpath 158/8 to a bridleway and to advise the Parish Council and County Council accordingly.' This was carried unanimously. Proposed LG/ Seconded MC

It was felt that consideration should be given at its next meeting on ways of preventing horse riding on footpath 158/8 as it runs along the western boundary of Charney Field.

8. Joint Liaison Group

- a) Trustees were provided with a link to the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December – no comments were made.
- b) Joint Liaison Group Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> January – discussion held under d) below
- c) Trustees approved the Joint Liaison Group Terms of Reference.
- d) Submission to Community First -advice has been sought from Community First on a range of issues relating to Hall and Field including legal ownership and scope of Charity Scheme. Some discussion was held but it was agreed that an extra meeting would be held once the advice that been obtained.

9. Woodland Project

A Report of the Woodland Project Group was circulated to Trustees and the Parish Council prior to the meeting. Trustees were very supportive and positive about the work that the group had already done and the community involvement.

A proposal was made to invite Trustees to consider the change of remit of the Group to The Woodland and Habitat Management Group to consider the whole Charney Field area in a holistic development plan. Proposed LG/Seconded ND

The feeling of the meeting was that the proposal needed to be given further consideration after the response from Community First and no vote was taken.

The group also proposed that its terms of reference could usefully include liaison with and briefing of the Charney Army on behalf of CHAFT in respect of such practical tasks, do that they handled within the overall context of CHAFT's habitat management of the Field. It was agreed that the views of the Parish Council and its lead officer would be sought. Action LG

It was noted that it might not be desirable to burn accumulated pruning but rather to use it in a more ecological way. It was noted that the existing Field Safety Policy permits the burning of waste from the woodland area under strict conditions but it is due for review to take account of the woodland area. It was proposed that there would be a review of the Burning Policy in May. Proposed LG/Seconded DS

Some budgeting concerns were raised over development of the field and woodland areas although it is thought that Forestry Commission Grants may be available. It was agreed that work in line with the Felling License should be undertaken before further development which would be carefully planned and staged with proposals being brought back to the Management Committee. Negotiation for a greater diversity of species to be supplied within the 400 whips may be possible and probably desirable.

*Bruce Royan left the meeting*  
*8.30pm*

10. Safeguarding Policy – The Safeguarding policy was approved subject to amendment in the first paragraph of the policy principles and will be displayed in the Village Hall. AB will research the possibility of training for trustees on safeguarding. Action AB/CT
11. Forward Diary – Additional meeting will be held to discuss the response from Community First when it is received. Invitations will be sent out by doodle poll to decide the date and time.
12. Questions from the Public - None
12. A.O.B.
  - a) John Stiles has kindly offered a mobile defibrillator to the community which is no longer needed at the redundant Carswell Golf Course. This could be kept in the Village Hall or the Church. Some discussion occurred regarding the maintenance costs. Further investigation first will be carried out. Action LG

- b) It was agreed that in future the Agenda and Meeting Papers would be published on the Web. There would be a notification in Charney Chatter regarding upcoming meetings with a link to the papers. Action AB

14. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 6.30. Extra meeting likely to be held in March (date and time to be decided).

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Minutes Submitted by A.J. Brown 16.2.21

Approved by