

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FALCON MEADOW COMMUNITY TRUST
Minutes of the Zoom meeting held at
7:00 – 8:30pm on 30th November 2021

Agenda

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Financial report and accounts 2020-21
4. Trustee appointments
 - Retirement and re-election of current Trustees
 - Nominations and elections of new Trustees
5. Report on current year
6. AOB
7. Meeting close

Attendees

Tim Child, Chair
Allan Myatt, Treasurer
Deirdre Shepherd, Trustee
Katie Utting, Trustee
Graham Halliwell, Trustee
Dorothy Casey, Trustee
Tony Dawes
Derek Owen

1. Chair's welcome and apologies

TC welcomed all to the meeting, which once again was being conducted on Zoom due to the ongoing concerns around the Covid19 pandemic. Apologies were noted from: Laura Myatt, David Green, Sue Child

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Draft minutes are available on the Falcon Meadow Community Trust website. These were approved by those present.

3. Financial report and accounts 2020-21

The Treasurer summarised the accounts for the previous year, as submitted to the Charity Commission in July:

- a. Income from events and donations was £2,171.
 - There was £10,252 of restricted income in this year which came from
 - Community Fund - National Lottery Awards for All - £7,840
 - East Suffolk Community Partnership - £500
 - Ecclesiastical Charities Trust - Movement for Good Award - £1,000
 - Suffolk Community Foundation – Harris Family Trust - £912

The total income was £12,423 for the year which is approximately £2k up on the previous year.

- b. With the proceeds from the 2020 virtual duck race, and some generous donations from private individuals, we were able to pay off the final £1,500 (in Aug 2020) of the £50,000 loans taken out in 2015 to purchase the Meadow.
- c. Expenditure amounted to £2,063, of which £1,090 was from restricted funds; primarily the Suffolk Community Foundation (Harris Family) grant for the two-meadow cut and bails. As we did not need to cut the bank for the duck race, this was lower than budgeted. The Harris family have kindly allowed us to set aside the remaining grant for other costs.
- d. Having started the year with 3,900 in the bank, and with the subsequent income Having repaid the loans this year, we finished the year with £10,818 in the bank; of which almost £9,760 was remaining grants, including the £8,340 ear-marked for the new footpath. The remaining £1,060 of unrestricted income should cover running costs – insurance, meadow cuts, etc.
- e. Copies of our draft Trustee report and accounts for 2020-21 are available on our website. Trustees approved these for submission to the Charity Commission.

4. Trustee retirements, re-elections, and appointments

- a. In line with the requirement for one third of the Trustees to stand down at each AGM, Tim Child and Deirdre Shepherd retired having completed their term in office.
- b. Both Tim and Deirdre expressed their continued support and commitment to Falcon Meadow and commented on how much it is now valued and loved by the local community. The Trustees noted their thanks to Tim and Deirdre and paid tribute them as the founding members behind the 2015 initiative to purchase the meadow. Also, a special thanks to Tim for taking on the role as Chair of the Trust and guiding it throughout its existence.
- c. There were no nominations to replace the retiring Trustees. AM noted that the constitution does allow for Trustees to be appointed at any Trustee meeting in the year, not just the AGM, and asked those present to promote the vacancies to potential candidates within the community.

5. Report on the current year:

5.1 Meadow activities – KU summarised the activities over recent months and some plans for the future:

- a. Footpath – Trustees thanked GH for organising the laying of the new footpath, which was successfully completed in June. This has increased footfall the footfall and improved access allowing visitors to walk a loop round Bungay throughout the year.
- b. This was further enhance with new gate posts and kissing gate at the Bridge Street end. AM noted a new Radar padlock is on order for the disability gate. It was agreed that GH should buy a spring closure for sluice footpath gate.
- c. DC has revised the management plan, removing some of the aspirational suggestions (such as grazing) that are unlikely to ever be achievable. The final version is more pragmatic and realistic now, reflecting lessons learned in recent years. It was agreed that this should be reviewed approximately every three years.
- d. Plants and conservation – several working parties had helped through the summer, primarily cutting sward and introducing wildflower seeds. The earlier cut and bail was successful, with the hay being removed quickly this year. As it wasn't possible to do autumn cut, we will review whether to do one early next spring.

- e. A dip well was put in early in the year and along with some bat boxes, which proved popular among meadow supporters.
- f. Richard Cundy has kindly agreed to plant some hawthorn screening whips on the north bank of the back drain. This should improve the outlook from the meadow without reducing access or the amount sunlight getting through. KH has ordered the whips from TCV.
- g. Graham and David Green intend to pollard some of the willows in January. GH has arranged a meeting with the Internal Drainage Board on the 14th December to come and assess the back drain and make a decision as to what to do with the fallen trees.
- h. East Suffolk Council (ESC) organised some summer forest school type activities for young people on the meadow. They have since written to thank us for allowing them to use the meadow. TD reported that ESC are seeking funding to enable them to do the same again next summer.
- i. The petrol driven scythe cutter (The “Beast”) has been serviced and is cutting much better now. KU will purchase some hand-scythes and pitch forks to supplement this with some organised traditional scythe events next year.
- j. Richard Mabey is due to deliver a talk for us at the Fisher Theatre on 10th Feb. The Trustees note their appreciation to both Richard and the Fisher Theatre for their support.

5.2 Update on finances for 2021/22;

- k. As at the end of October this year, we had received £911 in donations, of which £500 came from the Bungay Open Gardens in the summer. This was an unexpected bonus for which we are truly grateful to the organisers of Bungay Open Gardens, the gardeners themselves and the many people who visited the gardens.
- l. As for last year, we also received some income for lending out the scythe cutter.
- m. We started this year with £10,818 carried forward from the previous year. Having now paid for the footpath, this year’s insurance premium and some minor maintenance costs for things like servicing the scythe cutter, our cash in the bank at the end of October was £3,124.

6. Any other business

- a. AM referred to a facebook message GH had picked up on with two enquiries from an Ipswich fisherman, who was very complimentary about the meadow:
 - i. He questioned the restriction to fishing from the platforms and asked for this to be extended to include responsible fishing further along the bank.

Before reaching a decision on this request, there was a discussion about the wider impact on riverbank during the pandemic from those accessing the water for swimming and canoeing. This had significantly eroded the bank at the Bridge Street end, just where it had been breached during the winter flooding. It was also noted that the riverbank is the meadow’s richest habitat for nesting birds and insects in the summer. It was agreed that we should restrict access to the river here next year with signage and temporary fencing to allow the bank to recover. In addition, fishing would not be permitted upstream of the platforms.

However, there were no objections to fishing from the bank below the sluice gate.

- ii. The fishermen also noted that the back drain could do with clearing / desilting to provide additional shelter for fish during flood conditions and possible spawning area for pike inter alia. It was agreed to review this point following the meeting with the This would be considered during the Internal Drainage Board on the 14th December.
- b. AM then noted an email from David Green, who had been approached by a dog water with a couple of questions:
 - i. She asked why we couldn't have more trees planted in the meadow? DG had responded that it was primarily wildflower meadow and more trees would not be in keeping with the efforts to encourage a greater variety of plant life. The Trustees agreed with this response.
 - ii. She asked if the park-like tree surrounds on the black poplar and the willow could be removed and replaced with something less urban. DG had noted these were to protect the trees from damage by people as much as animals and needed to be sturdy. The Trustees agreed but did note that they were not intended to remain forever. Once the trees are deemed to be sufficiently mature, they will be removed.
 - c. AM said that Andrew Atterwill has kindly offered to allow us to use some of his meadow photographs to reproduce as prints/card for sale to raise funds. AM suggested this may tie in well with some sort of event – possibly an exhibition of the art competition entries just launched in the Village People magazine. The Trustees noted their sincere thanks to Andy and to Wendy Fullam who has been liaising with him and has offered to assist with this.
 - d. The previous item also generated some fresh event ideas:
 - i. A photography session, where photographers could be encouraged to come down and capture some spring images on a given day.
 - ii. A 'food-foraging' event with a local expert providing guidance on what to look for
 - iii. A public walkabout session identifying plants a wildlife that people may not be aware ofThe Trustees will add these suggestions to an event planning meeting in January for further consideration.

There being no further business the meeting closed.