

LURGASHALL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on 28th April 2016 in Lurgashall Village Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bonnett, Jeremy
Caird, Malcolm
Christian Iola
Clark, John & Elizabeth
Cooper, Ray
Crandon, Anthony
Fairston, Miles
Flint, Judy
Harden, Joe & Irene
Hardie, Alistair
Hayes, Revd. Peter
Kinnear, John & Barbara
Lambot, Andrew
Lawson, Jacquie
Martin-Jenkins, Anthea
Matthews, Sarah
Meyer, Stephen & Erica
Nicholes, Cathy
Nugent, James
Reed, Laurence
Tate, Andy
Vaughan, Joanne
Wood, Rita

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, Malcolm Caird, welcomed all those attending the meeting and reminded them of the purpose of evening, which was first to conduct the formal proceedings of an AGM and secondly to report on the activities in the field in 2015 and outline plans for 2016.

He reminded the meeting briefly of LRA's history: the Company had been formed in June 2012 and became a charity that August; the field had been purchased in July 2013; this had been financed by a series of grants from public bodies (£37,000) and donations from 26 households totalling £66,805. Membership had been opened to Lurgashall residents in late 2013, and there were now 156 adult and 30 junior members.

He read out the Company's objects, and referred to the Company's Special Documents, as adopted by the Board, being the Articles of Association, the Restrictions Document (restricting the uses to which the field may be put), the Membership Policy, and the Governance Policy. To change any of these Special Documents would require a vote of 75% of the Members attending a General Meeting. He reminded those present that these documents are all published on www.lurgashall.org.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman said that he had received apologies for absence from the following Members: Linda Aylward, Karen Bonnett, Warwick & MaryAnne Cox, Tania Fairston, Chloe Fairston, Anthony Flint, Sally Hardie, Geoff & Kate Hayhurst, Neil & Sophie Jowett, Sue Lambot, Chris & Sally Ohlson and Gina Reed.

1. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2014

The Chairman introduced the Company's Accounts for the year to 31 December 2015. He enlarged on various matters in the Director's Report and explained the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet with the aid of projections of the Accounts on the big screen.

Unfortunately some of the detail of the Accounts was difficult to read on the screen, and Members requested, and it was agreed, that in future years the Accounts would be published on the website in advance of the meeting.

The Chairman explained the role of the Independent Examiner, Mr Brian Marshall FCA of Messrs. Knox Cropper, Chartered Accountants of Haslemere.

He invited questions from the Members, but there were none.

It was proposed by Jeremy Bonnett and seconded by Ray Cooper that the financial statements of the Company for the year to 31 December 2015 together with the reports thereon of the directors and independent financial examiner of the Company be received and adopted. On a show of hands this resolution was passed *nem con*.

2. NO FURTHER APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

The Chairman read out the resolution proposed from the Notice convening the Meeting.

He explained that the Charity Commission does not require an audit or an examination of accounts if the income of the Company is less than £25,000. However, the Board had felt that it was important to have an examination in the early days in view of the level of grants from public bodies. But in 2015 the income of the Company was only £1,476 and the potential cost of an independent examiner would take £480 of that. Accordingly, the Board had decided to recommend to the Members that there should be no audit or examination in future unless the income of the Company reaches £10,000 in any year, a figure well below the legal requirement of the Charity Commission.

The following resolution was accordingly proposed by the Chairman and seconded by John Clark:

“Not to reappoint Knox Cropper as Independent Examiners, nor to appoint any alternative as long as the Company's annual income remains less than £10,000, but should it in future amount to £10,000 or more, the Board are forthwith to appoint a replacement”

On a show of hands this resolution was passed with one Member voting against.

3. - 5. RETIREMENT AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Chairman reported that in accordance with the Articles three Directors were required to retire. Those longest in office are Malcolm Caird and John Clark, and of the remaining Directors Joanne Vaughan had volunteered to retire. All three would stand for re-election

The Chairman proposed that the resolutions to reappoint them be taken together and this was agreed. On the combined Resolution being put it was passed *nem con* on a show of hands.

That completed the formal business of the Annual General Meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Report on Activities and Proposals

The Chairman reported in accordance with the requirements of the Restrictions Document upon activity in the Jubilee Field during 2015 and on proposals for 2016, as follows:

Maintenance: The programme of maintenance has been continued. Jonathan Wright has mowed the field regularly and the quality of the grass is improving. The Board had decided not to buy the Company's own mower but to rely on contractors. Hedge trimming had also been carried out, which had particularly improved the hedge adjacent to the road.

In 2016 these programmes will be continued.

Activities and Events: Two benches have been installed in the field for the benefit of those wishing to enjoy the peace and quiet. Small five-a-side football goals have also been provided, but these have not been used as much as might have been expected, possibly because of the difficulty in getting the grass low enough. A most successful fund-raiser was held in September, Canine capers, a fun dog show, which had raised £427 for the Company.

In 2016 it is intended to repeat Canine Capers on 4 September. It is also intended to install a cricket net to enable Lurgashall Cricket Club to practise, although the net will not be exclusively theirs and will be open and available to all. New five-a-side football goals are also being provided for the centre of the football pitch area, and the grass in that part is to be kept shorter.

Parking: In 2015 the roped off area for parking had been created, which had been a success for cricket parking especially. It had been used on 21 Saturdays and 12 Sundays for between 12 and 20 cars on each occasion. Parking had also been available in the Field on five other occasions – the Fete (the field was full), two weddings (30 – 40 cars each time), Pantiles Players camping in July and for the last flight of the Vulcan in October (about 75 cars). All this had saved the Green from very serious parking problems. Luckily the weather had been mainly dry, but parking for Marion Doggart's funeral service had had to be withdrawn because of wet weather making the surface too soft and slippery for safe use.

In 2016 the Board anticipated that the pattern would be broadly similar. However, the provisions of the Deed of Grant of right of way from the Leconfield Estate require the Company to put in a hard driveway over the entrance area and this will be completed during the summer.

6.2 Questions from Members

The Chairman invited questions from Members:

Sarah Matthews: (1) The problem of moles in the field was getting worse. What was to be done? Joanne Vaughan explained that Apollo Pest Control had been contracted to deal with them, and would also be dealing with the rabbit problem in September. (2) The far end of the field by the goalpost was very wet – could the drainage be improved? The Chairman said that very little could be done to improve that area.

(3) The field needed more use, and nothing seemed to be happening in the way of development. What about Plans A – D which had been shown at the AGM two years ago? The Chairman said that the

possibility of a Multi-Use Games Area was under consideration by the Board, and it was also hoped to get more people playing five-a-side football. It was also hoped that the new cricket net would prove popular in the Village.

Joe Harden: Is the Field registered as a Community Asset? Jeremy Bonnett explained that it is not, and although it could be done the Field is adequately protected by the very clear Objects of the Company.

Anthony Crandon: Commented that progress in developing new facilities on the field is so slow that a Master Plan for coordinating them was hardly necessary.

Laurence Reed: Is the parking area now accepted, and should it now be given a hard surface? The Chairman confirmed that the area did now appear to be accepted by the Village as being a very useful part of the solution to the parking problem on busy days. Surfacing would be kept under review by the Board, especially as there is a safety aspect when the weather is wet.

6.3 Vote of Thanks

Ray Cooper proposed a vote of thanks to the Directors for their work over the past year and this was approved by the Members.

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed.

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Malcom Caird
Chairman