**Halesworth Millennium Green Trust**

Registered charity no. 1079518

**Minutes of a Trustees’ Meeting**

**Held at Brook House, Halesworth**

**on Friday 5th October 2018 at 10 am**

**Present**

Trustees: John Bainer, Don Foster, Paul Hyden, Sal Jenkinson, Nicky Rowbottom, Richard Woolnough

Secretary: Sue Bainer

1. **Apologies**: None
2. **The minutes of the last meeting** were agreed and signed as a correct record. **Matters Arising**: PH pointed out that in Item 4 on the second line the Railway Trust is the Southwold Trust and the other trust is the Halesworth to Southwold narrow gauge Railway Society.
3. **Finance:** JB circulated a report (on file) and confirmed that income and balance are good. JB advised that there is £152 per month coming into the account in standing orders. The art competition received £354 and £131 went out in prizes and the Angel did not charge for the stable room. It was agreed Spectra as a major donor needs promotion and that as the event was in profit we should continue again next year but with a larger more highly organized exhibition.
4. **Management Report**: RW asked if the trees that Mrs Parker planted had survived the dry summer. PH confirmed that they did and they are opposite the orchard on the edge of Arthur’s wood. SJ asked about the countryside stewardship grant and the higher level. It was agreed that this was not right for an MG application this year and the trustees were not sure what they meant by semi improved grassland so will ask Graham to survey it in the spring and consider applying for this grant next year. PH provided a Management Group report attached to these minutes. The Trustees thanked PH for his terrific work and organization of the Green volunteers.
5. **Heritage Trail meeting and the New Reach**: RW reported on the meetings he had with Gerald and Simon and the Environmental Agency. Also NR had a meeting with Penny Hemphill of the Environment Agency and provided notes from this for the file. They had clarified the position with regard to the water voles and NR pointed out that we are bound by law to follow the rules and Penny has done a survey and the outcome is very positive. There were 6 people from the Environment Agency, 3 from the Town Council and 1 from WDC at the meeting. A lot of attention is being paid to Halesworth and its waterways and there will be an officer working full time on the River Blyth based at Wenhaston. The officer will work with landowners regarding the silt problems coming from farms and the silt bank that apparently makes no difference to flooding in Halesworth. The Environment Agency confirmed they do not need to move the silt bank because of flooding but will move it for other reasons. MG Trustees agreed they will help to discuss these matters with the neighbours whose gardens back on to the New Reach. MG will report back to the Environment Agency regarding the spoil from the silt bank on the gardens side of the park as it would not be possible to get a large machine to work on the park side of the water. A discussion took place regarding Himalayan Balsam and the issue relating to long term sustainability. It was agreed it needs dealing with in May and would require 2 people cutting and pulling. It was agreed with Penny Hemphill that this will be OK for the water voles and would probably take place in conjunction with Gerald and his boat. NR reported that the water voles in the silt bank need to be redirected and this might involve digging out the runs in mid February – April and identifying where the burrows are based. A survey needs to take place and an ecologist would be in charge of this project. MG will help the professionals and work within Schedule 1 species and habitat rules. SJ suggested that MG write to the Environment Agency and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust thanking them for their suggestions. **Action: NR**

It was felt that Simon Raven should think about the Rail Bridge and the White Bridge that used to be a swing bridge and bear in mind their features. MG do not want Disneyfication but it would be good to make them more attractive. DF pointed out the MG must have the final say on what is done on our land and we await Simon Raven’s report with a proposal for how this is to be done.

1. **Replacement Trustees**: NR confirmed that she will be stepping down formerly at the next meeting. SJ advised that she would like to step back in due course and DF advised that he too will be stepping down in the next 12 months. A general discussion took place and DF asked for suggestions for new trustees. RW suggested that the Trustees be very careful and do not take on representatives of other groups which was agreed. NR pointed out that often other groups have a different agenda. It was agreed that Mark Fisher would be an obvious choice as he is interested in ecology and conservation. Another name put forward was that of Gilly and it was agreed to ask these two initially if they would consider being trustees and if they do we could then add another new person in say 6 months time. **Action: DF**
2. **Secretarial support for the Trust**: SB advised that she is only able to do the MG agendas and minutes and not the day to day work. SJ kindly offered to take on all the other work when she steps down as a trustee. SJ to be given the MG password for the emails immediately. The situation will be reviewed in 6 months time to see if it is working properly.
3. **AOB**: NR talked about the extension of **the cycle route** from Holton Road alongside the engine shed and across the Folly as funds will be available for this project. NR was given permission to talk in principle to pursue this idea for the best route and she will bring back ideas to the next meeting. This will be discussed with Mike Jackson and RW. **Storage** was discussed by SJ who advised that she had removed all the files in JB’s shed and reboxed them and labeled them and placed them in the container on the green.
4. **Date of next meeting**: The meeting closed at 12 noon and the next meeting will be on Friday 15th March 2019 at 10 am at Brook House, Halesworth.