

SEF Minutes Tuesday 11th October 2022

Attending: Trustees Stephen Hughes (Chair) Ann Priestman (Sec) Tricia Moores

Apologies: Trustee Bill Armer, Advisor Ray Bray

Also Attending Prospective Trustee and Treasurer Carol Rowatt

Malcolm MacDonald tendered his resignation as advisor of SEF having been a Trustee and Advisor for 23 years. The trustees expressed their gratitude to Malcolm for his active service to the charity particularly lately on environmental issues.

Change of Charity Structure:

The Land Registry is still transferring land to new charity – Ann to remind our solicitor we are waiting.

Stephen to contact HSBC, BlackRock and EIS Liability Insurance to notify them of change of charity number and new Treasurer and to add Carol as new signatory. Stephen to continue as signatory until all cheques cleared and Accounts changed.

Carol will then investigate internet banking.

Carol happy to be Charity Commission contact when charity moves across.

Old charity will need to be closed down.

Treasurer's Report:

Stephen circulated prepared accounts. We look to have plenty of money with a balance of £5,146.81 but it includes Malcolm's French Sunday Lunch money and Gerald's £1,000 donation and KPC grant – all ring-fenced.

8 cheques were paid to students

2 cheques paid to solicitor and 1 cheque paid for Insurance

It was noted that investments valued at £18,448.93 last year are worth just £15,457.40 this year.

Stephen to move Malcolm's French Sunday Lunch money to BlackRock.

Land Management:

- KPC has released grant of £2,360 for clearance of land under Village Hall with hope that a 'garden space' can be created afterwards and Sharp's Tree Services have been engaged. They will flail land and then spray the ivy right up to Mr Bowers wall and to return for a small fee on a regular basis to re-spray. Their invoice is - £1,700 plus VAT.
- It was decided by all trustees to proceed with Sharp's who came recommended by Village Hall committee and because the TCV quote had risen so steeply and didn't include any spraying.
- Ann has applied to KPC Small Grants round for a grant for re-spray next year.
- Tricia to keep Mr Bowers in the loop re dates and spraying although Simon from Sharps stays with the land while the spray dries and becomes inactive. Mr Bowers feels aggrieved over perceived non-management of land and did threaten legal action over damaged walls from the ivy and a cherry tree. The VH committee also insisted all buddleias be taken down as they claim they are damaging the party wall. Ann obtained free advice from local Structural Engineer Tom Henry who says walls aren't always built thick enough and disputes damage caused by any of these trees – damage is more likely if trees are removed too drastically as ground moisture stabilizes. He did say all oak saplings must be removed before they cause trouble.

- SCEG have kindly cleared a passage to the metal fence at top of land from VH garden although Sharps may not need access this way, but have been asked to remove cuttings. Many thanks to SECEG for clearing this access and the Village Hall committee who will allow us to access our land this way on an occasional basis.
- SCEG may take on some maintenance of this land if safe to do so.
- Sarah Simpson from SEF has removed all overhanging ivy onto Far Bank – our thanks to be passed to her.
- The Bridle is being managed on a regular basis by SCEG – brambles and paths cleared, wildflower meadow sown, bird and bat boxes erected and with a KPC grant SCEG have installed new benches and a plaque for Queen's Platinum Jubilee. SCEG to be thanked by trustees for all their hard work and for applying for grants that have enhanced the Bridle as a public amenity. We are fortunate to have such an active group working on our land.
- Solar panels was suggested for land under Village Hall but having seen a representative from Warmaway the conclusion is it may be impractical unless the Village Hall committee want to make use of energy from solar panels as there is no power source on land.

Student Applications: 14 Applications received. Two were deemed not to qualify as they were studying for A Levels and a BTec, One received the lower rate of £30 as he had lived in Shelley for just a year but the other 11 received a full grant of £50 each.

Discussion amongst Trustees about qualifying for grant and it was agreed not A Levels or BTecs but qualifications after these – Higher Education or Level 3 Apprenticeships or above.

Some of Malcolm's French Sunday Lunch money used for these grants.

AOB; Carol offered to raise funds for SEF at next year's Gala if they attend.

Stephen formally retired from SEF and was thanked for all his diligent work as Chair and Treasurer of SEF for 25 years, especially through turbulent financial times recently and for managing so many disputes and problems arising from the land – far more than when he started.

A small presentation was made on behalf of the Trustees.

Carol Rowatt was welcomed as Trustee and Treasurer of SEF by the trustees.

Date of next meeting; Tues 13th June at 2pm at Ann's house.

Statement of Accounts For Year ending 30 September 2022

** for clearance work to be done to SEF land to the side of Shelley Village Hall