

WELSH CHURCH ACT ESTATE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 20th June, 2022.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor M.R. Wilson (Chair); P. Drake (Vice-Chair), C.E.A. Champion, H.C. Hamilton, M.J. Hooper and M.J.G. Morgan.

Also present: Councillors E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health) and I. Buckley.

75 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor J.E. Charles.

76 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

78 WELSH CHURCH ACT ESTATE – NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION TO ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (DCR) –

The report together with a power point presentation by J. Benjamin, consultant, and the verbal updates provided at the meeting aimed to ensure that new Members of the Committee were aware of the functions of the Trust, understood their roles and responsibilities as Trustees and provided details of the land portfolio in the Trust's ownership.

During the presentation Mr. Benjamin advised that as trustees the Committee must:

- Always act in the best interest of the charity
- Manage and avoid conflicts of interest
- Protect the charity's reputation

Appendix A to the report provided information in respect of financial assistance applications and investment portfolio with Appendix B providing details and site location maps of land holdings. Debbie Marles Monitoring Officer who was also present at the meeting was pleased to hear that the independent consultants interpretation of Members Code of Conduct matters was in sync with the training that had been provided to all Elected Members.

Following a query, the Operational Manager for Property advised that most of the Welsh Church Act Estate land was capable of being let and was income producing although some was land locked and difficult to manage options are often looked at and considered by Committee.

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T Mr. J. Benjamin of MJB Consulting be thanked for an informative presentation.
- (2) T H A T the information provided in relation to the roles and responsibilities of the Trust, roles as Trustees and the property portfolio held by the Trust be noted.

Reason for decisions

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

79 PROPOSED ADOPTION OF LAND AT SEAT VIEW TERRACE, BARRY (DCR) –

The report advised Committee of a proposal received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council to formally adopt land in the Trust's ownership as public highway. There was no intention to acquire the land on the Highway Authority's part, only to adopt the land thereby ensuring that the land was maintained in the future by the Highway Authority, at public expense. The Operational Manager advised that the highways department would plan to undertake the work as soon as possible if approved by the Committee and with limited inconvenience to residents.

Both Councillor Hooper and the Chair stated that in their view it was a good way of managing the site and Committee having regard to the officer's verbal update, the report and the map at Appendix A to the subsequently,

RESOLVED – T H A T the request from the Council's Highway Authority to formally adopt the land in the Trust's ownership, the extent of which was as shown in Appendix A to the report, be agreed.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

80 LAND AT GLEBE FIELDS, SULLY – TOWN AND VILLAGE GREEN
APPLICATION UPDATE (DCR) –

The report advised that the Trust had appointed Mr. Michael Brett, Barrister of Francis Taylor Buildings, to act on its behalf in respect of an Application that had been made to the Commons Registration Authority to register the land as a Town and Village Green pursuant to Section 15(2) of the Commons Act 2006.

The Trust had submitted an objection to the Application and the Applicant had submitted a response to the Objection. A copy of the objection was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and a copy of the response was attached at Appendix 2. It was noted that the Legal department was currently liaising with Counsel to compose a reply to the Applicants response

It was also expected that the Commons Registration Authority would appoint an Independent Inspector to hold a non- statutory Public Inquiry in respect of the application.

RESOLVED – T H A T the content of the Objection and the response to the Objection be noted.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report.

81 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2022/23 TRANCHE 1
(DCR) –

The Operational Manager for Accountancy advised Committee that applications for financial assistance were detailed at Appendix A to the report and the purposes for which the Welsh Church Act Fund may make grants was set out at Appendix B to the report. A budget of £40,000 had been set for issuing grants during 2022/23 and an unallocated budget amount of £5,250 carried over from 2021/22 was also available for allocation during 2022/23. The total grants budget for 2022/23 was reported as £45,250. Applications for grants totalling £24,840 were set out in Appendix A to the report.

Prior to the meeting all Members had been circulated with a revised Appendix C which detailed the revenue outturn for 21/22 and projections for 22/23 which had also been uploaded to the agenda on the Council's website.

Following a query as to what would happen if some of the grants were not drawn down Committee was informed that this would be placed back in the fund for future applications.

It was subsequently,

RESOLVED – T H A T the applications for grant assistance as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the applications submitted and in furtherance of the objectives of the Trust.