

# THE LIONEL ABEL-SMITH TRUST

(Formerly Wendover Community Trust)

Registered Charity Number 274879

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2016, AT THE BOWLS CLUB, DOBBINS LANE

### 1. PRESENT

Mrs. M. Clayton (Chairman), Mr. A.E. Mogford MBE (Vice-Chairman), Cllr S. Bowles, Cllr R. Duggan, Mrs W, Gray, Mrs S. Potter, Dr. G. Williams.

*In attendance:* Miss J. Hacking, Mrs. G. Newman, Mr. A. Robson, Mr. M. Ryan.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. M. Beard.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

**(a) Petitioning Against The HS2 Hybrid Bill:** Two petitions had been presented on behalf of the Trust to the House of Commons Select Committee during the year seeking protection for the Trust's properties. It was now necessary to consider petitioning to the Select Committee of the House of Lords. **The Trustees were unanimous in their agreement to proceed with this.** Mrs Potter expressed appreciation for all the work, time and effort that the Chairman, Trustees and others from Wendover had given to the petitioning process.

**(b) New Leaflet for the Trust:** Mrs Gray apologised for not progressing this due to other pressures. **It was agreed to defer this until next year as it was not urgent.**

**(c) Wendover Youth Centre Progress Report & Letter of Appreciation:** The Trustees agreed that this was very impressive and a huge success story, but it would be necessary to ensure that the Youth Centre remained funded in the future.

### 5. APPLICATION FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL REGARDING FUNDING FOR SCHOOL TRIPS

The Trustees agreed with the Chairman's decision to refuse this on the basis that these costs could be covered by the extra funding the school received for these pupils from the government. She had spoken to the Business Manager at the school who understood the Trust's position. If there were changes to this funding in the future, parents could always apply individually.

### 6. PLAQUE IN ST MARY'S IN MEMORY OF LIONEL ABEL-SMITH

The Vice-chairman reported that this had taken a long time, but agreement had been reached with the PCC of St Mary's and a Faculty application was now being made to the Diocese.

## **7. PLOT AT LITTLE HAMPDEN CLOSE**

A paper had been circulated advising the Trustees of the Vice-chairman's proposal to investigate the feasibility of selling this plot. After discussion, **the Trustees agreed with a proposal that The Trust will work with a consultant to assess the site.** The Vice-chairman was thanked for all the work he had done on this.

## **8. REPORT OF THE MANAGING AGENT**

Mr Robson circulated a modification to the first page of his report which had been circulated to the Trustees. He updated the Trustees on recent developments with the properties and was thanked for all the work he does.

## **9. PROPERTY MATTERS**

Further to the need to update and refurbish some of the properties as highlighted in Mr Robson's reports **it was agreed that a group meeting consisting of three Trustees and the Treasurer be convened to consider the work required at No 6 Pound Street and to consider the future financial situation of the Trust.**

## **10. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr Ryan explained the essential features of the accounts. The Auditor had asked some questions on points of detail concerning the shares held by Rathbones and Mr Ryan would talk to Miss Hacking and Mrs Potter about the historical endowment of these shares by Lionel Abel-Smith. Rathbones had not yet produced their current valuation of the shares, but this would be circulated to the Trustees as soon as it was available.

Mr Ryan explained that the overall financial position was that there was around £45,000 available for the rest of this financial year. He warned that there could be problems with next year's grants in view of the cost of refurbishment work to the properties. He thanked Mr Robson for keeping him informed regarding cash flow.

## **11. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Mrs Clayton said that Mr Mogford's help continued to be invaluable. She nominated him to serve again. There being no other nomination, **Mr Mogford was elected Vice-Chairman nem.con. for one year.**

## **12. APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS**

With the downturn in income, Mr Ryan was asked for quotations to be obtained for the independent examination of the 2016 accounts. The decision on examiner was therefore deferred until the next time that the Trustees would meet to agree the way forward on No 6 Pound Street.

## **13. GRANTS AWARDED DURING THE YEAR**

23 applications had been received during the year and 19 grants were awarded totalling £14,856.51. They were listed separately and there were no questions pertaining to them.

## **14. CONSIDERATION OF CURRENT APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS**

A total of 26 applications for grants had been received.

Following discussion, **a total of £14,510 in grants was paid as a result of this meeting.** These were distributed as follows:-

**Education:** £5,800  
**Elderly:** £2,500  
**Individuals:** Decision deferred, awaiting further information  
**Medical Areas:** £2,000  
**Organisations:** £4,210. In addition the second promised payment of £10,000 to the Youth Centre awarded last year would be paid.

Full details of the grants awarded at the meeting are listed separately.

## 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) **Date of Annual Meeting in 2017:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April in St Anne's Hall.
- (b) **Trust's Solicitor:** It was agreed to remove the listing of Parrott & Coales from the Trustees Annual Report and replace them with Lucas Solicitors.
- (c) **Grants During the Year:** there had been a larger than usual number awarded since last year's Annual Meeting. In future, Trustees needed to be aware that the amount awarded will need to be carefully considered.
- (d) **Loans:** each case needed to be looked at individually.
- (e) **Fight Against HS2:** a 'scissor lift' had recently been placed on the Manor Waste to show the height of HS2 Ltd's proposal to erect a 6m high sound barrier. People were being encouraged to petition for a tunnel through the Chilterns. If this was rejected, individual members of the House of Lords could put forward amendments, for instance, a different tunnel for Wendover. Hydro-geology experts had now given their report.
- (f) **Promise of Grant of £2,000 to The Wendover Society in Their Fight Against HS2:** this had been made to go towards the cost of an independent assessment of the additional cost of tunnelling if HS2 Ltd did not itself fund this. The Wendover Society were now petitioning the House of Lords and were hoping that David Lidington would succeed in persuading the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Transport to fund such a review. If this was unsuccessful, the estimated cost of the Society commissioning such a review was £12,000 and the Trust's promised £2,000 would be required. The petitioning process was expected to be between May and September 2016.

The meeting closed at 5.25 pm