

**MINUTES OF THE FOSSIL GROVE TRUST MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 30TH APRIL 2019 AT 10.00
IN THE CITY CHAMBERS**

Present: Walter Semple (Chair); Councillor Maggie McTernan (MM), Bailie Ade Aibinu (AA), Councillor Feargal Dalton (FD), Elizabeth Brown (EB), David Webster (DW); Campbell Forrest (CF); Neil Robertson (NR).

Apologies: Michael Herrigan (MH); Ian Veitch, Treasurer.

In Attendance: Fiona McKinnon (FM), LES, Glasgow City Council (until 10.30).

1. Minutes of the Meeting on 29th January 2019

At the request of MH sent by email on 28th April, the trustees agreed to the following addition, to be inserted at the end of item 5 paragraph 8. "The possibility to refurbish and restore the existing historic building which is the first of its kind in the world, built, as it was, to protect and preserve fossil remains in situ." Otherwise the trustees approved the minute.

2. Minute of the Meeting on 20 February 2019.

This was approved.

3. Update Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Sustainability.

FM spoke to her report. She explained that the instructed work had been carried out in response to a Health and Safety report to allow the building to be opened to the public. The work had not been carried out in response to the advice provided by Historic Environment Scotland. The work on lighting and ventilation had still to be instructed and she was without a budget to carry out this work. She had received a quotation from City Building Contractors for replacing light fittings amounting to £37,500. She referred to the quotation from TDB Preservation obtained by MH dated 7th March. This quoted £1133 plus VAT for replacing existing wall mounted lights using ladders from the fossil floor. There was no possibility of the City paying £37,500 but the City would agree to lighting and ventilation work being carried out by an outside contractor approved by the trustees. AA expressed serious concern at the amount quoted by CBC.

The trustees noted that the quotation from TDB included electrical works although there was no sign from the quotation that TDB were qualified electricians. The trustees noted that the work to the clerestory included the installation of stainless steel lever vents. There was no reference to work on the ventilation at the gable ends of the building. NR said that information on the rate of air exchange was important. The trustees requested that advice be sought from Historic Environments Scotland on the short term lighting and ventilation and that at least two competitive quotations should be obtained for this work.

4. Treasurers Report

The trustees noted the report on the Ruffer Absolute Return Fund and the Treasurers report on it.

5. Action Plan dated 17th April 2019

The Chairman put to the trustees the nine recommended actions in turn.

01. CF would lodge an Expression of Interest with the Heritage Fund shortly. Copies would be made available to the trustees. He apologised for the delay. He thanked Elizabeth and Maggie for their contribution. He believed that it would be important to employ North light to assist with the community aspects.

02. Negotiate with Glasgow City Council the terms on which the trust will carry out a short-term and long-term plan. FM had agreed that trustees could carry out the remaining short term works and meet the cost. The trustees considered that ownership of Fossil Grove should remain with Glasgow City Council. Their preferred route forward would be a management agreement as proposed in paragraph 2 of the action plan. This decision could be reviewed if continued ownership by Glasgow City Council became an obstacle to obtaining funding. The trustees agreed that the Chairman should seek a meeting with Glasgow City Council to discuss a management agreement. This should take place after the result of the Expression of Interest was known.

03. The trustees agreed with the proposed changes to the Trust deed as set out in schedule 2 to the Action Plan. The approval of the Scottish Charity Regulator was required. Therefore, any resolution would be subject to obtaining that approval. The resolution would be as follows:

PROPOSED CHANGES TO FOSSIL GROVE TRUST DEED.

1. Clause 4(a): Delete the words "the acquisition and subsequent" and insert: "Subject to the consent of the owner of Fossil Grove, the"

2. Clause 8: Delete the second sentence and insert: "Such accounts shall be prepared and independently examined or audited in accordance with the requirements of the Scottish Charity Regulator, OSCR and shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Trust".

The chairman said that the Trust Deed could be amended only by a resolution passed by a majority of at least 75% of the trustees then in office at an extraordinary general meeting of the trustees of which not less than 21 clear days' written notice must be given. The Chairman suggested that as the proposal seemed to be uncontroversial and the work needed to be carried out, he would seek the written approval of all the trustees to the change.

Note: In order to avoid any objections to this procedure, the resolution will be ratified at the next meeting of the trustees on 13th August. This minute is notice to the Trustees of the proposed change to the Trust Deed for ratification.

05 and 06. The trustees resolved that any amount not externally funded would be paid for from the trustees' funds up to a maximum of £10,000. On that basis and having obtained

the consent of Glasgow City Council the trustees agreed that the short term work referred to above should be carried out on the conditions set out in paragraph 3 above.

07,08 and 09. These proposals were all approved.

CF referred to the minute addition by MH in 1 above. He reminded trustees that he had written an extensive email on 24 January, copied to all trustees, on this subject, i.e. prior to the 29 January Trust Meeting. This email took account of his study of background workings and recommendations made by the professional engineers involved in the 2014 study, and many other factors. If MH disagrees with these findings, the 24 January email also sets out a draft action plan which could be followed by MH separate from the current Heritage Fund project

CF said that the trustees were not a body with the expertise or procedures necessary to undertake a major project of the kind being discussed. If the Expression of Interest were successful, he would propose to convene a conference of all interested parties to discuss how to take matters forward. The Chairman said that the Trust Deed included power to incorporate a company to assist in carrying out the purposes of the trust. Campbell said that he expected that would take around nine months to prepare and lodge a stage one application to the Heritage Fund. The application would be for 70% of the total cost which might be in the region of £4 million. To raise the remaining 30% would be a major fundraising challenge.

6. Building Repairs, Environmental Monitoring, Conservation and Lighting.

The trustees noted the full and helpful report of DW. The actions required had been already discussed.

7. Website Opening and Outreach.

DW spoke to his report. The trustees thanked him for the work that he had done and agreed that he should be reimbursed for his expenditure of £322.98 p.

8. Report from Victoria Park Working Group.

MH had submitted the following report by email.

“The SCIO is now constituted, and the four Trustees are Maisie McCrae (Whiteinch Community Council), Charles Scott (Broomhill Community Council), Elizabeth Brown (Friends of Victoria Park) and me (Fossil Grove Trust).

The current Trustees are to meet on a date in May to appoint the full complement of ten Trustees. FGT will have a Trustee on the Board as will the other Lead Organisations. Other bodies and societies are considering whether to nominate a Trustee from within their organisation. Once appointed these Trustees will work in the best interests of the SCIO.

We hope and expect that the new SCIO will help us achieve a successful bid to HLF by demonstrating that this is an integrated, overall park strategy which I understand will be necessary.”

EB confirmed that a place on the board had been set aside for a Fossil Grove trustee.

9. Future trust meetings

13 August 2019 at 10.00;

29 October 2019 at 10. 00

An additional meeting with the staff of Glasgow City Council, set out in paragraph 3 above.

Draft prepared by Walter Semple on 2nd May 2019.