

**MINUTES OF THE FOSSIL GROVE TRUST MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 10 AM  
IN THE CITY CHAMBERS**

*Present:* Walter Semple (Chair); Councillors Maggie McTernan, Ade Aibinu, and Feargal Dalton, Glasgow City Council; Elizabeth Brown, Michael Herrigan; David Webster; Campbell Forrest; Neil Robertson.

*In Attendance:* Fiona McKinnon, Land and Environmental Services; Kara Wilson, Financial Services, Glasgow City Council (for the first part of the meeting).

**1. Approval of Minutes of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**

The trustees approved the minute of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October subject to changing the Heading of "Monday" to "Tuesday".

**2. Matters Arising**

Although Fiona had an action point from the previous meeting to arrange a discussion with Glasgow Life, Campbell had contacted her and asked specifically that she did not do this until further notice.

**3. Email from Jordanhill Community Council dated 22 January 2018.**

The Chairman had received from Anita Moore a copy of an email from the Secretary of Jordanhill Community Council requesting that he receive copies of a letter from Roger Curtis of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) dated 15 August 2017 and a Report from Access LLP. These were referred to in the Minute of the Trustees meeting of 21 August 2017. Having carefully considered the request, the trustees decide to refuse it. The Chairman undertook to prepare a letter for sending to communicate the trustees' decision.

**4. Financial Update 2017-18.**

There was submitted and noted a financial update for the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 advising that the balance in the account was £399,133.

A representative of Ruffer, financial advisers would attend the next meeting of the trustees.

**5. Report by Land and Environmental Services**

Fiona McKinnon tabled her report and spoke to it:

- Lighting. She awaited a report on installation methodology and costs from Access LLP to change existing lights to LEDs. A report would be made to the trustees when available.
- Drainage: work will be starting imminently to identify and repair the drainage to the west of the building along with other works to the pond in the quarry area. Fiona tabled a drawing indicating the location of the proposed works to the west of the building. The proposal did not address the blocked drain to the east of the building.
- Opening dates for 2018: between Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of October.

- Staffing: this would be by Park Rangers between 12 noon and 4 PM each Saturday and Sunday.

Ade Aibinu asked about the previous expenditure of £19,000 on the drains leading to the east of the building. His enquiries had not resulted in receipt of any information. Fiona said that there was a framework contract between LES and Hanlon, but no specific contract. Hanlon had been asked to investigate what was needed, specify the works and carry them out. There had been no tendering process. No written completion report was available. This information confirmed a failure in the procedures required to ensure that the drains were cleared. Considering the extremely high moisture level in the building this was serious. David Webster said that there was standing water on the floor inside the building. Good drainage was essential.

Fiona agreed to ask the contractor to investigate the potential gap between the drainage investigation planned at the west end of the building and the previous drainage investigations carried out by Hanlon. This should ensure that all the drainage to the north, east and west of the building has been investigated. Fiona will request a drawing of the investigations by the current contractor. In addition, Fiona agreed to ask the contractor to investigate where the down pipes at the north and west of the building fed into.

#### **6. Report on Environmental Monitoring from David Webster**

David Webster spoke to his report. The recorded humidity has been virtually constant at 98.5%. This is almost total saturation. It raises extreme concern.

When recorded, the temperature did not fall below 2° and during the two periods when external temperatures fell below zero it appears that the thermostatic heating system switched on and off several times which helped maintain the inside temperatures above freezing. However, there was a data gap in December during a period of sub-zero temperatures. These conditions produced increased condensation on the interior surfaces and pronounce dripping from the roof beams onto the fossil floor. The analysis carried out so far by HES has indicated the presence of magnesium sulphate in the drops coming from condensation on the metal beams. This substance is a potential source of damage for the fossils.

David explained the difficulties which he had encountered in getting the environmental monitoring software to work on a replacement laptop. He had succeeded after much time and some extra costs. His expenditure totalling £570.86 ( which was £60 more than quoted in his report since the final invoice for the software transfer from Sustainable Heritage Conservation including £60 VAT, which he had not noted at the time.

The Trustees agreed to reimburse David Webster the sum of £570.86 in respect of:

Zinstall software	£110.86
Windows 10 pro	£219.99
Refund of old licence	-£119.99
IMCE Synergy reinstall	£300.00
VAT @ 20% on £300	£60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£570.86</b>

### **7. Report on visitor numbers from David Webster**

David Webster spoke to his report which is attached. The total number of visitors recorded in 2017 is less than half the number of visitors recorded annually when the Fossil Grove was open all week. Perhaps this was not surprising in view of the poor condition and unattractive appearance of the building and the fossils. The report made recommendations:

- that a desk diary be purchased and a supply of pens
- that visitor counting instructions for operators be provided at the desk and that these are laminated and displayed prominently
- that a new comments book be provided that an exit questionnaire be devised and made available for visitors to complete

Fiona McKinnon said that she would arrange for a new diary and a comments book to be provided in time for opening at the end of March along with a supply of pens and instructions for staff.

### **8. Discussions with Historic Environment Scotland**

The Chairman reported that he and David Webster and Campbell Forrest had followed up the report from Roger Curtis of Historic Environment Scotland. They had a constructive meeting in Edinburgh with Ewan Hyslop and Roger Curtis on 21<sup>st</sup> December when HES agreed to set out their proposals for restoring the building in a form that could be costed. A further meeting had been fixed for 23<sup>rd</sup> February in Stirling. The trustees would be informed of the results.

### **9. Friends of Victoria Park work on the quarry area**

Elizabeth Brown reported that the next stage of the work would be to clear the pond and then plant the proposed Fernery. The bid process to obtain finance for the purchase of the ferns works was progressing slowly but it was hoped that matters would be completed by the end of the current financial year.

### **10. Report and proposal from Victoria Park Working Group**

Michael Herrigan presented a document from Victoria Park Working Group entitled Phase 3 Proposal Final, which had been circulated in advance to the trustees. The purpose of the document was to establish a new legal entity, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and application for charitable status. This SCIO would be able to apply for significant funding for delivery of the strategic development plan.

The trustees were invited to say whether they agreed that the proposal offered a clear route forward, that it was a representative of the working group discussions to date and that the trust supported the Phase 3 Proposal. They were asked if they wished to continue to be a partner in the Working Group and whether they would be able to make a small financial contribution to it, and whether they had any specific skills or expertise in the tasks involved in setting up the SCIO. Finally, they were asked if they had any other brief comments on the proposal.

The trustees were in favour of the proposal subject to one important reservation. The Fossil Grove is a feature located in the park but whose importance goes far beyond the interests

of local residents. It is a geological site of national and international importance. The trustees are devoting a huge effort to have Fossil Grove restored and re-established. Whilst they supported the Phase 3 Proposal, and wished to continue to work with the other interests in the Park to achieve a solution which was acceptable to the local community, the trustees did not wish the proposal to restrain or restrict their efforts to restore and re-establish Fossil Grove to a condition which was consistent with its geological importance. In particular the trustees would need separately to take part in raising the necessary funds to restore and re-establish Fossil Grove. The importance of Fossil Grove had been consistently acknowledged by the Working Party, and the trustees thought that their reservation would not impede or restrict the proposals of the working party or the SCIO.

The Chairman and Michael Herrigan were asked to convey this to Neil Lovelock.

### 11. Other business

#### - **The wooden statue to the east of the FG building.**

David Webster reported that this statue was seriously rotted and could collapse. Fiona agreed to request a review the condition of the statue.

#### - **Glasgow Tourist and Visitor Plan**

Campbell Forrest produced a leaflet advertising this Plan. Its stated aim was to increase visitor numbers to Glasgow by 50%. Campbell suggested that the Fossil Grove had a part to play in achieving this goal. He asked the elected councillors for advice on how to bring this to the attention of those responsible for implementing the policy, and possibly raise funds. Feargal Dalton said that the best way to initiate this was to write and ask. Campbell will take this forward.

#### - **Glasgow Life**

Maggie McTernan reported that she had spoken to Duncan Dornan of Glasgow Life. He confirmed that GL would not consider taking management responsibility for the Fossil Grove, though they would be willing to offer advice and support in kind in relation to the interpretation of the fossils, and volunteer management.

### 12. Next Trust meetings

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (AGM).

Walter Lynch  
Chairman