

FOSSIL GROVE TRUST
MEETING OF TRUSTEES
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2022 AT 10.00
BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Present: Walter Semple (WS) (Chair); Elizabeth Brown (EB), Councillor Feargal Dalton (FD); Campbell Forrest (CF); Councillor Maggie McTernan (MMT); David Webster (DW); Ian Veitch (IV),

Apologies: Neil Robertson (NR). Michael Herrigan (MH);

1. Minute of the Trustees Meeting on 27th October 2021.

This was approved.

2. Treasurers Report.

The Treasurer gave the following report.

Payments since the previous report

The following payments have been made since the last trustee meeting:

27/10/21	Brian O'Neill	150.00	Independent Examiner Fee for year to 31/3/21
06/12/21	Smith Scott Mullan	7,830.00	Project - Phase A
21/12/21	Sustainable Heritage	84.10	Batteries for iSense unit
13/01/22	Smith Scott Mullan	6,825.00	Project - Phase B 1st Instalment

The arrangement for payments to be made on our behalf by The Geological Society of Glasgow is working well and a balance of £12,438 is currently held by the GSG on our behalf.

Expenditure for the Financial year

Total expenditure so far for this financial year has amounted to £18,501.

There is still a Phase B second instalment of £6,825 to be paid to Smith Scott Mullan in due course

We are about to apply for the £7,000 AHF grant which will offset the above costs.

Ruffer Report at December 2021

The Ruffer fund has increased in value by 9.8% for the year to 31/12/21 and has shown a 3 year annualised return of 9.3%. These are satisfactory returns which have increased the value of the Trust's investments above the rate of inflation.

FGT Bank Account

This continues to prove problematical. I have an account with Santander who will only open an account if you are a customer. I contacted them in October and was given a telephone meeting date of January. On the January call they then told me that all signatories would have to bank with Santander and suggested I try elsewhere. Other banks are reluctant to open charity accounts, and some are closed to new applications.

The Sunday papers had a report of banks such as HSBC have closed free charity accounts as they are not viable for them.

I hope that it will be easier to open an account for a new SCIO and proposes that we continue our agreement with Geological Society of Glasgow in the meantime. Agreed.

3. Repairs, Monitoring and Outreach.

The Report from DW was noted with thanks. The report referred to a number of basic repairs which should be the responsibility of the City Council as owners. These are outside the scope of the Renovation Project. They were referred to Drew Williams on 18th November and a response was still awaited. Alex Fleming-Knox had also been informed. She had said in an email of 27th January that the heating repair request had been allocated to accommodate and she was awaiting an update. Maggie McTernan offered to pursue this with Alex and Drew McWilliams. **ACTION MMT**

4. Work on the Building and Fee Proposal for Design Team Services

DW had updated to January 2022 his document entitled "Renovation Project - Progress Report and Project Plan". This had been sent to the trustees. It had been developed in discussions with Smith Scott Mullan Associates (SSMA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and NaturScot. It represented a detailed account of the history and state of the building and the fossils as well as works required for a phased programme of immediate repairs and improvements and a longer term strategy for building and fossil preservation. The trustees agreed that this was a good document to take the work forward, and thanked David for the great amount of work that had gone into its preparation.

SSMA had produced a "Fee Proposal For Design Team Services" on 27th January. This had been sent to the trustees. It followed the proposals for phases in the Project Document of DW and set out the work which they consider would be necessary for the professional team in each of the four phases. The trustees agreed that at this stage the proposal for phase 1 should be accepted at a price of £15,700 plus VAT. This was additional to the fee of £17,700 plus VAT for the Condition Survey and Feasibility Study. This would allow the initial work on reducing water ingress to proceed.

HES had offered funding assistance to help meet the cost of the work to be carried out, but the work would need to be started before 31st March. There was accordingly some urgency about proceeding with this instruction. The chairman had already asked Jamie Bateman to discuss the input with Roger Curtis of HES so that the input and wishes of HES were better understood. DW would inform Jamie Bateman of the trustees' instruction and suggest a site meeting. The Chairman would consider the contractual issues with Jamie.

The Chairman would also consider insurance for the trustees in relation to contractual risk.

ACTION DW and WS.

5. Architectural Heritage Fund

The Treasurer was about to claim the £7000 grant awarded to the Trust by AHF following preparation mainly by DW of a Project Viability Appraisal for AHF. CF would discuss with Gordon Barr the possibility of further grant funding to be used for the next stage of the development plan now being prepared. **ACTION CF**

6. Proposal to form SCIO

It was agreed to proceed with the formation of an SCIO to replace the current Trust Deed as its purposes were no longer attainable or adequately attainable with this form of Constitution. It was no longer possible for the Trust to open a bank account and with this form of Trust the trustees would find it difficult or impossible to raise the funds which would be needed to carry out the trustees plans to develop the Fossil Grove. Chairman agreed to prepare a draft single tier Constitution for an SCIO including due regard for the appointment as directors of members of the Geological Society of Glasgow and trustees of the Victoria Park Community Trust. **ACTION WS**

7. Relationship with Glasgow City Council/ Phase 1

The chairman had spoken with Alex Fleming Knox. She had replied by email on 27th January. She said that the City Council very much wanted the HES funds to be used and asked trustees to share a scope of works with her. The chairman said that he would phone Alex and explain the situation so that we could work together to achieve our shared objectives. **ACTION WS**

8. Relationship with Glasgow City Council / Long Term Tenure

The chairman had also spoken to Alex about the long-term arrangement with the City which had been proposed in early 2021. Alex had asked him to complete forms which would bring the project within the scope of the Council's People Make Glasgow Initiative. EB warned that this initiative had become very controversial in Glasgow. It had acquired the reputation of a scheme to privatise city assets and on that account was unpopular. It was agreed that this issue had been discussed some months ago with the City and that it had been suggested that the Fossil Grove development should take place by separate negotiation between the trustees and the City and not included in the People Make Glasgow Communities programme. The chairman said that he would not respond in writing but would discuss this with Alex so as to avoid misunderstandings. The suggestion of a Participation Request had been made some months ago and not thought suitable. This would be reviewed. **ACTION WS**

9. Future Meeting Dates.

2022: 27th April; 24th August; 26th October

The chairman indicated that in view of the number of current activities it might be necessary for the trustees to meet before 27th April.

Prepared by Walter Semple on 3rd February 2022.