

**Campaign to Protect Rural England
Rutland Branch
Meeting of Charity Trustees
Held at 2.00pm on Tuesday 7th December 2021
At the Falcon Hotel Uppingham**

MINUTES

Present: Ron Simpson (Chair)(RS), Judy Geer (Treasurer)(JG), Geoff Clyde (Admin)(GC), Carolyn Cartwright (CC), Annabelle Meek (AM).

1. Chair's Welcome and Introductions

RS welcomed all Trustees, particularly AM and Barbara Keene (BK), who regrettably could not attend. John Williams had notified that he would be standing down as Trustee after this meeting and for the purposes of the meeting had transferred his vote to the Chair as required. RS proposed that AM and BK be accepted as Trustees and this was agreed unanimously. RS added that there was another candidate for the position of Trustee and this would likely be confirmed by the next meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from John Williams and Barbara Keene.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Charity Trustees held on 7th September were approved.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Executive Reports

a. Chair: RS gave an update on activity from National CPRE, particularly the ongoing review of governance structures. Regional groups were concerned as there was the possibility of amalgamations. RS stated that his engagement with National CPRE remained good and, that new proposals were awaited.

He had looked at the research programme and intended to initiate a work programme

for the next 2/3 years, it was hoped to discuss this at the next meeting.

The Hedgerow Trust would support projects on land that was accessible to the public, RS had referred this to the Agricultural Society with a view to a possible project at the Rutland Showground.

b. Finance: JG distributed an income and expenditure report for end November 2021. Anticipated expenditure in December is the website configuration by Clocked-In in the sum of £950. The agreed maintenance charge will start in the New Year. There should be a surplus at the end of the year in the region of £1000. The bank balance at 31 Nov is £12479.38.

A draft budget was presented showing costs returning to 2019 levels with a possible Expenditure of £2000 on the Vision Project if necessary. This would result in a small deficit on the year. The budget proposal was agreed unanimously.

With regard to banking arrangements for 2022, Malcolm Touchin will be removed as a signatory to the accounts. It was proposed that AM and CC be added as signatories. This proposal was agreed unanimously.

In the financial regulations there is a need for a Trustee to check the reconciliation of the Bank accounts on a regular basis. It was agreed that this would be done at the quarterly Trustees meeting by signing off the bank statement in comparison with the Accounts Schedule produced by the Treasurer.

c. Admin: GC reported that the Christmas Quiz was progressing, despite a delay in adopting it onto our website. The design issues were almost complete and RS gave a demonstration. It was agreed that it was a significant improvement with eye-catching design features including a link to social media.

7. Overview of significant planning matters

CC explained that CPRE Rutland had made official representations in respect of several proposed housing developments in the past few months; however, it could not be assumed that CPRE support was automatic. In particular where the proposal involves a small group of houses as infill, or on the edge of an existing settlement, CPRE Rutland would consider all cases, as always, on their individual merits.

The most important issue at the moment is the Mallard Pass project to erect a solar farm in the north-east of the county. The proposal covers 2175 acres which includes a major area agricultural land between the villages of Ryhall, Essendine, Carlby, Uffington, Belmesthorpe Braceborough and Greatford.

A public meeting was held at Greatford on 2 Dec 21 and was attended by RS. It was well attended and well organised, RS had been asked to represent CPRE membership in Lincolnshire and Rutland, to ascertain the facts about the Mallard Pass Solar Project and advise on what support to the community, if any, the charity could give. RS has provided a summary in his article in this weeks Rutland Times. The social and environmental impact will be huge, and will be treated as a nationally significant infrastructure project with a very different planning process. The public meeting has created the Mallard Pass Action Group, the local MP has been supportive, it was agreed that CPRE would assist MPAG and RS would register our initial comments.

8. Approval of New Charity Policies

RS presented a series of new policies for approval by the Trustees. The following were agreed: -

- a) Equality and Diversity Policy
- b) Board Member Code of Conduct
- c) Conflicts of Interest Policy
- d) Procurement Policy
- e) Financial Regulations (Note that these include the authorisation of the Executive Committee to attend to the day to day affairs of the charity as required)

9. Adoption of new volunteer role descriptions

New role descriptions for Trustees had been adopted and circulated. A role description for the vacant Vice Chair had also been created. A description already existed on Assemble, GC was to clarify if this was up to date and linked to National CPRE.

10. Priorities for 2022 and a strategy to boost membership

RS confirmed that a draft work programme would be produced for agreement at the next meeting. Work would also continue with RCC on the Rutland Conversation and the first steps towards a new Local Plan; however, there were no specific meetings yet arranged. There were several matters arising from the Rutland Conversation that required a challenge on validity grounds. RS agreed to draft a response and suggest a set of actions to be agreed for the future.

RS stated that he had been invited to be involved in the governance of Uppingham Community College. This would be a good opportunity to engender the interest of young people and promote a younger level of membership. It was agreed that membership would be a standing item on the agenda for future meetings.

11. Any other business

There was no other business.

12. Date of next meeting

While no firm date was agreed, it was planned that the next meeting would be in mid-February 2022. Final details would be confirmed in due course.