

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT SOMERFORD FREE GARDEN TRUSTEES HELD ON
ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 31st MARCH 2021 AT 19.30 HRS.**

**PRESENT: Trustees S. Mansfield-Chairman, H. Cole, S. Binstead, M. Griffiths, A. Gravell,
C. Blount, F. Hyde, M. Hourigan, D. Butcher.**

IN ATTENDANCE: T. Chapman

MINUTES

1	<p>Apologies for Absence.</p> <p>None – all present</p>
2	<p>Minutes</p> <p>It was proposed by Dave Butcher and seconded by Chris Blount that the Minutes of the previous Trustees meeting held on 22nd February 2021 be adopted as a true record. This was approved unanimously; the minutes were then signed by the chairman as a true record.</p>
3	<p>CIO</p> <p>Sarah Binstead gave the Trustees an update on the communications with the Charity Commission following the application for registration of the CIO. It appeared that the CC was trying to impose more severe financial restrictions on the CIO than actually exist in the present charity; this would 'ring-fence' any funds transferred from the existing charity to be used solely for the benefit of the poor non-house-holding allotment tenants. Sarah had responded that these proposed restrictions would render the operation of the Free Gardens completely impossible and that the CC should look at the conditions which are current in the Free Gardens and which they themselves agreed to. No answer has yet been received. Furthermore she stated that, as we have no documentary evidence as to the legal and beneficial ownership of the FG land, any legal fees incurred in the process of transferring title to the CIO might be unacceptable. She therefore proposed that the registration of the CIO be put on hold until such time as the Trustees have determined exactly the ownership of the land and, in any case, until after the forthcoming Parish Council elections. The new Trustees would have to decide if they want to proceed with re-registration. This was seconded by Dave Butcher and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Sarah agreed to share the Charity Commission e-mail chain with the rest of the Trustees.</p> <p>Mel Hourigan asked if potential new Parish Councillors knew that they would have to become Trustees in the existing Charity (if the CIO is not in place). Theresa Chapman informed the Trustees that she had informed all those that she knew are standing for election.</p> <p>Steve Mansfield then advised the Trustees of the questions he had asked the Charity Commission regarding the current charity; viz :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That as we are attempting to register a CIO and have no documentary evidence we would like sight of the original documentation used to set up the existing charity. 2. Confirmation (re. an earlier telephone conversation with the CC by Dave Butcher) that not all the Parish Councillors have to be Trustees if they don't want to be. 3. We would like to appoint 1 or 2 residents who are not Parish Councillors as Trustees. 4. That if registration of the CIO proved practically or financially too difficult that the existing charity constitution be amended to mirror as far as possible the proposed CIO constitution.

	<p>Steve Mansfield then proposed that, if the CIO proved impractical, that we follow the route outlined in points 2, 3 and 4 above. This was seconded by Hector Cole and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Theresa Chapman informed the Trustees that she had been in contact with NALC for advice from their legal department relating to Land ownership – no definitive answers have yet been received.</p>
4	<p>Recent Events on Free Gardens</p> <p>As there have been a number of incidents of verbal abuse and threatening behaviour on the allotments recently it was felt that the Trustees need to generate a code of conduct for tenants (and other users of the Free Gardens) including such sanctions that may be applied.</p> <p>Action - Steve Mansfield.</p> <p>Closure of Free Gardens to Vehicles. The recent necessary closure of the Free Gardens to vehicles had caused some unrest – it was agreed that any such closure in future would be (where possible) advertised earlier. I had been suggested that, if closure was necessary, maybe not all entrances need be closed – it was agreed this is impractical and if closure is necessary then all gates will be closed.</p> <p>Meriel Griffiths proposed that, even if the CIO does not go ahead, that the Allotment Holders Association should be asked for a nomination for a member to attend (in a non-voting capacity) any future Free Gardens meetings. This was agreed.</p> <p>Action - Steve Mansfield.</p>
5	<p>Maintenance</p> <p>The stile by the gate next to The Old Mason's Arms is wobbly – Steve Mansfield offered to inspect.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note The stile has now been stabilised against the metal gate post with ty-wraps.</p>
6	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>Interim report only – full report available following e/o financial year</p>
7	<p>Items for the next agenda.</p> <p>The next meeting was to be on 14th April. It was agreed that the next meeting would not be until after the forthcoming PC elections</p>

S. Mansfield

2/6/21

2020-21

Date	Description	FY Opening Balance	Inter-Acc Transfers	Income	Expenditure	FY Closing Balance
Free Gardens Treasurers Account						
06/04/20	Start of Year Balance	12,396.00				
28/04/20	Cheque No 0040 to J Derrick - Grass Cutting: Inv No 0420 †				-330.00	
29/05/20	Bank Giro Credit from COIF †			497.06		
29/05/20	Cheque No 0041 to J Derrick - Grass Cutting: Inv No 0520 †				-165.00	
30/05/20	Cheque No 0042 to BHIB – Public Liability Insurance †				-186.19	
27/06/20	Cheque No 0043 to Rob Griffith – Free Gardens sign †				-150.00	
06/07/20	Cheque No 0044 to J Derrick - Grass Cutting: Inv No 0620 †				-165.00	
01/08/20	Cheque No 0045 to J Derrick - Grass Cutting: Inv No 0720 †				-165.00	
25/08/20	Cheque No 0046 to B Roberts – Clearing Plot 21 †				-20.00	
28/08/20	Bank Giro Credit from COIF †			497.06		
04/09/20	Cheque No 0047 to J Derrick - Grass Cutting: Inv No 0820 †				-165.00	
30/09/20	Cheque No 0048 to J Derrick - Grass Cutting: Inv No 0920 †				-165.00	
07/10/20	Cheque No 0049 to B Roberts – Removing fallen tree †				-20.00	
01/11/20	Cheque No 0050 to J Derrick – Grass Cutting: Inv No 1020 †				-165.00	
01/11/20	Cheque No 0051 to T Hennessey – Legal Advice: Inv No 0013/2020 †				-693.00	
30/11/20	Bank Giro Credit from COIF †			489.52		
26/02/21	Bank Giro Credit from COIF †			489.52		
16/03/21	Bank Trans to Tessa Hennessey – Final Payment †				-426.67	
24/03/21	Bank Trans to D & H Surveys – Inv 1557 †				-105.00	
24/03/21	Bank Trans to D & H Surveys – Inv 1145 †				-102.00	
	FY Totals	12,396.00	0.00	1,973.16	-3,022.86	11,346.30
	Closing Balance less Opening Balance					-1,049.70
COIF Investment Fund						
06/04/19	Start of Year Value (actually e/o Feb 2020)	63,394.21				
	Value at 17/07/2020	64,194.62				
	Value at 4/11/2020	63,094.00				
	Value at 17/02/2021 *	68,627.06				
05/04/21	End of Year Value					

Treasurers Acc. As of 29th March 2021

† - Indicates verified in Statement

* - CF £55,000 when invested in 2018