

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021
MORETONHAMPSTEAD DEVELOPMENT TRUST
Thursday 21st October 2021 7pm, Online

Present:

John Willis (Chair of Trustees), Cameron Caverhill (Trustee and Vice Chair), Liz Prince (Treasurer of Trustee), Andrea Foxwell (Trustee), Richard Foxwell (Trustee), Liz Gavrilenko (Trustee), Emily Dooley (Trustee), Alastair Wimberley (Trustee), Vivienne Hodges (Chair of Parish Council), Peter Turner (standing for election as trustee), Lucy Connolly (MDT Kickstarter and Environment project lead), Jane Bowes (Youth Club) and Edmund Phillips (MDT Centre Co-ordinator, Minutes)

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

John Willis welcomed everyone to the online meeting.

he explained that the Trustees had decided that a Zoom meeting was still the safest format for this year's AGM, as Covid cases have gone up again.

John asked everyone for introductions.

Apologies: Mark Beeson (MED Theatre), Bob Small (Trustee), Joan Cox (Morecare), Mike Warner (Parish Council), Bee Denning, Penny Simpson (Parish Council representative on MDT), Jenny Bates (Trustee), Nina Bailey (Trustee)

2. Minutes of the last AGM, held 3rd December 2020 7pm online

Proposed as accepted by Liz Gavrilenko. Andrea Foxwell seconded. All approved, with two matters noted:

- There is currently work with solicitors to transfer ownership of the library to the Bowring Trust. There is some repair work to be done soon.
- Liz Prince noted an error in section 6 (open forum). Should have read "funding has been raised to pay Sustrans for a feasibility study"

3. Accounts for the financial year January 2020 to December 2020, and Appointment of Griffin

Accountants as Examiners for 2021

Introduced by Liz Prince and Peter Nottingham

John Willis introduced Liz Prince to report.

The Annual Accounts have been circulated to the Board of Trustees and sent to the Charity Commission and Companies House. They are shown to be mostly in line with previous year, not much has changed.

2020 comments. We had locked down in March due to Covid, and Greenhill closed shortly after. We had a £10,000 grant from Teignbridge council and a further £6,000 Grant going to the Arts. The arts officer was on furlough for most of the year. We managed to retain financial stability.

In 2020 the hospital acknowledged the debt of £16500 in service charges. The amount acknowledged is in reserves. This debt is not yet paid.

NedCare became an independent Charitable Incorporated Organisation during the year - no further comment.

The finance officer helped raise money to erect a bronze of Parker Bidder. This was erected in 2020. MDT helped but not part of the project.

We received a loan from social investment of £54,000 at the start of the year, £55000 at end of the year due to the impact of a 6-month repayment holiday. This increased the balance of the loan.

Liz Prince proposed Griffin Accountants to be reappointed as examiners as they have served as well. This was seconded by Alistair Wimberley. All approved

John Willis noted that the accounts have already been approved and shared.

John Willis noted that Greenhill continues to be viable and valuable. We have continued to keep the studio, offices and youth club open; and have had exhibitions throughout year.

4. Resolution: That Directors/trustees be appointed as below.

NOTE -This happened at the end of the meeting.

All resolutions proposed together by John Willis.

Liz Gavrilenko proposed and Richard Foxwell second. All carried. All elected as directors.

- Peter Turner was elected as a new Trustee.
- Emily Dooley, Alastair Wimberley and Liz Prince were re-elected as directors.
- Cameron Caverhill, John Willis, Jenny bates, Bob Small and Liz Gavrilenko willing to continue for a further year.
- Nina Bailey, Richard Foxwell and Andrea Foxwell willing to continue for a further two years.

ACTION: Liz Prince asked Peter Turner for details as a trustee to be provided to Companies House and Charities Commission

5. Annual report: presentations of activity past and planned

Our strategic plan- Liz Gavrilenko

We had an away day strategic planning in the summer of 2020. We had an outline of a plan which is then expanded with objectives aligned with current projects. Health and wellbeing an important factor, along with widening our community engagement and reaching people who do not presently through our activities.

The Recruitment of two kick-starters (a type of apprentice) was very valuable to the trust, giving a different generational view to many of the people currently involved in the trust before then. We would like to thank Isla and Lucy particularly for their valuable input to the trust. Their viewpoints have been very important. And we would like to continue in that vein into the future.

The questions at the bottom of the plan keep trustees on track for engaging with any project.

Richard Foxwell added that there was great engagement in the July sentry event, which had more than 200 people attending lots of activities. People who wouldn't usually engage with MDT attended.

Noted to thank and acknowledge Camilla's hard work on this project.

The Arts Andrea Foxwell

It was a difficult year last year! Georgie was furloughed for most of the year, we were unable to communicate.

January 2020 - Printing the land exhibition.

March - Bright and beautiful "Hinterland" exhibition. Open for 2 days before having to close due to covid restrictions.

Chris Chapman made a film of the exhibition, which was very successful. We were lucky to have received £6,000 from the Arts Council to bridge the period while we were closed. Also from online support and artists.

We did see a drop in sales and engagement. Elderly volunteers reluctant to come back and so support dropped off. When we opened again people enjoyed the space and it was lovely to have people through the doors.

Our £55,000 application to Arts Council was declined. we will submit a stronger project now we can meet and look at financial difficulties, the project will be supported by the whole team. reset appealed to patrons fundraising. Ian Mortimer is running a marathon and his just giving page has raised £1,000 already. "Moth" exhibition well-received with lots of sales. an extraordinary exhibition and has given the gallery lots of respect.

Andrea Foxwell would love another trustee supportive of the Arts. Does anyone know have anyone who would be interested?

Health and well-being – Richard Foxwell

Covid 19 has presented important jobs for us to do and new sources of income.

The Care line - was created in response to Covid by Wellmoor working together with the Parish Council and Morecare. Successful in befriending and medicine delivery. This lasted several months and was hugely needed in the community. Tried to bring back in the second lockdown but was less needed.

“Move moor” – and “Let’s get connected”. Really important projects that have shown that older people can be interested in online activity. Some people could not get online, and our help was very important.

Both projects have been well received and successful. More digital projects to follow from Wellmoor.

Bumps and Beyond - New parent group in 2020. New leader and Energy in 2021. Supporting children and giving guidance and happiness to new parents. Due to covid and staffing - Temporary shut down until Spring 2022. Jenny Bates is an important and helpful chair of the group.

Community Allotment - Wellmoor took over from the health centre. Lots of people enjoy the space, community and produce. Peter Turner has been a star and built the shed and greenhouse among other things for the benefit of all. Small but excellent team at the moment. Thanks everyone for the support so far.

Liz Gavrilenko noted that the huge effort that Richard Foxwell puts into all his work and funding needs to be recognised. All agreed.

John Willis noted that the Digital network across Devon was quite something.

Hospital - MDT lease 1/3 of the building from NHS. This lease expires at the end of December 2021. There is still a dispute about the charges we owe. If there is to be community use of the building from now on, the main user is likely to be the health centre; however the funding is uncertain.

Without any new arrangements, the finance committee could not see a case to continue beyond December 2021, so that NHS property services will have a direct relationship with the tenants. We will have a residual handover role. This could mark the end of our involvement in the hospital.

NEDCare

John Willis gave an update on behalf of Jenny Bates (not present)

NEDCare was a CIC and a subsidiary of MDT until September 2020, when it became a Charity. It is now able to raise funds in different ways. The charity needs new staff all the time, as there is a waiting list of clients. It has a reputation for a high quality of service and being a good team to work with.

Climate Action- Lucy Connolly

Lucy Connolly has been working on a Carbon Plan for Moretonhampstead, with the Council and others. This is available on our website.

Lucy Connolly gave an update on each section of the plan.

Reducing our emissions - not yet complete on the document as work is ongoing with the Parish Hall and Community Hall in Moretonhampstead. Ian Stuart is completing an EPC and DEC, and these could result in actual or suggested improvements to these sections.

Zero carbon housing – The Community Land Trust, which has three MDT Trustees as its directors, has been looking at affordable housing built to zero carbon standards, but still very uncertain.

Reducing Waste – A project for a library of things has been investigated, whereby people can rent out tools for example to reduce the waste and expenditure of buying new items.

Food – LG has been working on this, and there is a project in flight to establish a fridge in Moretonhampstead that people can take surplus food from. This will help reduce waste.

Natural Environment – Biodiversity group have been doing lots of tree planting and working on projects such as Swift boxes.

Renewable Energy – The hope and intention is that schemes could be included in the new housing builds.

Health and Wellbeing – the community allotment has been providing gardening for mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Transport – There is a project to provide a shared electric car and access to electric charging points in the town to reduce fossil fuel powered car use and associated emissions.

John Willis thanked Lucy Connolly for her hard work and the positive projects that have and will continue to happen.

Alastair Wimberley asked if gas prices had been compared to the usage of wood chip boilers. John Willis confirmed a study had happened.

ACTION: John Willis to circulate the results of the study to the other trustees.

Liz Prince updated that Lucy Connolly has also been working with the Moreton Action on Plastics Group (MAPS), and has helped produce a report and action plan. There is an ongoing study of agricultural plastic waste in particular, such as silage wrap. It has been difficult to find a way to deal with these problems and Lucy has worked hard to provide suggested ways forward to work with farmers and landowners to combat.

John Willis noted that ownership of half of the field between Baker Estates' development and Wray Valley Trail has been transferred to the Moretonhampstead Development Trust. A draft transfer from CC solicitors and the costs were for the legal fees and not land, so minimal. Nature would be left to take over the area for the next few months.

Community Fridge – Liz Gavrilenko

The community club have given space under the veranda as a location to house a community fridge, and this is hoped to be a good location. Just need funding now to take the project forward, and plan how the project will be managed and organised. A big thank you to the community club for agreeing to house the fridge. Up to £4000 for a successful bid, but only around £2000 is needed to get the project up and running. Electricity and insurance will be an ongoing cost.

Peter Turner asked if research had been done into the effect of putting a fridge outside. Asked if it would work and Liz G noted that this would be a special fridge designed to work and be located outside.

Richard Foxwell noted that the North Dartmoor Primary Care Network are keen on community fridge projects and that some funding may be available to support such projects.

ACTION: Richard Foxwell to contact NDPCN to investigate funding.

Housing Projects – John Willis

The housing project on the "Live Work unit" is still uncertain. The Development Trust would not be involved directly, but rather as a channel to get the Community Land Trust going. Dartmoor National Parks is supportive of us to do something however.

Peter Turner asked if the new estates being built in Moretonhampstead had included considerations for new heating, electricity and insulations standards. John Willis replied that considerations had been included at the planning stages. They would exceed building standards, but no solar panels or heat pumps would be included. No further details have been seen.

Alastair noted that the builders would likely provide the cheapest options to maximise profits, and therefore the cost of further works would be passed onto the residents.

Other local issues

Vivienne Hodges noted that the Parish Council planning committee would continue to look into the housing at the Bakers Estates' development and consider remarks made in this AGM, and feedback to the Development Trust.

Peter Turner asked if there is affordable housing on the estate.

Vivienne Hodges stated that there is not, as it is a brownfield site being developed. Government ruling states that there is no need for social housing on brownfield sites. The Parish council did push for affordable housing and there are minutes of the meeting on the Parish Council website.

Noted that there is a good relationship between Trust and Council.

Youth club – Jane Bowes

Very grateful for MDT providing facilities.

We tried to open the youth club a few times last year, but space was an issue with COVID. Both employees were on furlough for a year. We opened again last week, which has been very good and exciting. New

employees are presently being interviewed. Very impressed by the work that MDT have been doing with the difficult situation last year.

Has come to Jane's attention that older people in Moretonhampstead are scared of the internet and mobile phones. Could we facilitate something for older people to get to grips with technology? For example, could we run a course to make people more comfortable. A lot of people are still scared of COVID.

We no longer have a community minibus, that was awarded by Lottery funding. The catalytic converter was stolen and the association decided to sell it as parts. There is an opportunity for. Would MDT be interested maybe in an electric minibus, as it is easier to obtain capital funding than ongoing revenue support.

Jane Bowes suggested that MDT and the Parish Council need a "platinum project" for the Queen's jubilee. For example, could we get the library building up and running so it's something we can be proud of for next year?

Richard Foxwell responded to Jane's internet question: we have digital befriending with funding attached, and volunteers to help people in person with digital needs.

Very helpful as we know people are there but don't know how to reach them.

Jane suggested getting people together and talking, maybe with a tea party. Richard Foxwell said 1:1 is an option and likes the idea.

ACTION: Richard to send details and arrange for Katie Taylor to speak to Jane Bowes.

John Willis thanked Jane Bowes for her ideas and updates.

6. Open Forum

Nothing else arising

Date of next board meeting to be arranged.

John Willis thanked everyone for their contributions.

Peter Turner thanked everyone for the election and looks forward to joining the team.

John Willis thanked everyone again for attending, Edmund Phillips for making the meeting happen, and all for their contributions.

Everyone thanked John Willis as Chair.

Meeting ended.