

**Newton Green Trust**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - 7.30pm**

**Newton Green Village Hall**

**Attendees: Philip Taylor (Chairman), Shona Shipp, Paul Devlin, Lee Parker**

**Apologies: David Everett, Sue Thurgate**

**Distribution: All**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Minute</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>1. Apologies</b>	David Everett, Sue Thurgate	
<b>2. Declarations of interest</b>	None	
<b>3. Finance Report/Outstanding Invoices</b>	<p>Bank facilities have finally been secured with Unity Bank and the balance of the former Barclays account have been successfully transferred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current account balance - £22750.07</li><li>• Deposit account balance - £22493.24</li></ul> <p>The Trust insurance policy is due on April 1st. There has been no increase in premium from 2023/24 and Trustees agreed, after reviewing covers, to proceed with renewal at £308.</p> <p>The annual Charity Commission return is due. It should be a straightforward process given that there were minimal financial transactions due to the lack of banking facilities available to the Trust during the year whilst new facilities were being sought.</p>	<p><b>LP</b></p> <p><b>PT</b></p>
<b>4. Correspondence</b>	Correspondence received from the Golf Club requesting a review of the current license terms. Trustees discussed the request at length and will reply accordingly.	<b>LP/PD</b>
<b>5. Land Issues</b>	The Trust has appointed professional land agents, Brooke Leney to handle matters affecting easements and land issues. There is ongoing correspondence pertaining to 3 properties which Trustees hope to conclude swiftly.	<b>PD</b>
<b>6. Signage</b>	Trustees agreed to replace signage at either end of the track that leads from Rectory Road to Rotten Row. It is hoped the signs will act as a deterrent to those wishing to use the track as a through road.	<b>SS</b>

<b>7. Trust Re-Structure</b>	<p>The Trust appointments had to be re-drawn following the resignation of Michael Oliver, Lord of The Manor, last year which renders his role and that of his representative obsolete. This turned out to be a significant piece of work necessitating the involvement of The Charity Commission and solicitors but offers fresh opportunities for NGT. Trustees now hope to begin the process of re-structuring the Trust to be relevant for the 21st Century. Members discussed what that future structure might look like and initial thoughts were that members could include those with specialist skill sets rather than those required by the current Trust Deed. Members are committed to transforming existing practices in order to make the Trust accessible, transparent and fit for purpose. Work to continue.</p>	<b>All</b>
<b>8. Little Green Track</b>	<p>Trustees discussed the ongoing matter of the poor condition of the track at Little Green. The Trust's obligation is to grant access across the track only - there is no requirement to maintain it - however trustees acknowledge that its condition is causing much consternation to residents. The cost of providing a permanent finish, such as tarmac, is prohibitive at this time. LP explained that should the proposed development at Juglans proceed there would be a considerable Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment due to the Parish Council. He explained that the sole purpose of CIL is to offset the harm caused by development and argued that there could not be a better use of funds than to help fund a suitable surface to the track at that point of the village. He suggested this could be a collaborative effort between Trust and Parish Council.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>9. Wildflowering</b>	<p>Following representation from a member of the public via the Parish Council, Trustees have agreed to trial an area of wildflowering upon the playing field. LP arranged for Babergh District Council's bio-diversity officer to visit the playing field in January to offer advice. Furthermore, a volunteer with relevant experience has offered to establish and monitor the area. This will be a small, dedicated area which won't impact upon the overall amenity or use of the field at large. Trustees were keen to get the trial underway immediately now Spring is here. Notices advising people of the trial will be placed in the Box River, village website and village Facebook group.</p>	<b>LP</b>
<b>10. Clerk to the Trustees</b>	<p>Trustees would like to investigate whether a member of the public in Newton could be found willing to oversee the administrative function of the Trust in its entirety. Currently individual members attend to various tasks and minutes are taken by a willing volunteer, but this is not conducive to good overall administration. The Trust will ask if there is a facility for files to be centralised within the Village Hall as currently enjoyed by other village organisations.</p>	<b>LP</b>
<b>11. Any other business</b>	None	

<b>12. Date of next meeting</b>	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 7.30pm.  Meeting closed at 9.15PM	
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