

**MINUTES OF THE FOSSIL GROVE TRUST MEETING  
AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018 AT 10 AM  
IN THE CITY CHAMBERS**

*Present:* Walter Semple (Chair); Councillors Maggie McTernan, Ade Aibinu, and Feargal Dalton, Glasgow City Council; Elizabeth Brown, Michael Herrigan; David Webster; Campbell Forrest; Neil Robertson.

*In Attendance:* Fiona McKinnon, LES, Glasgow City Council, Kara Wilson, Financial Services, Glasgow City Council [until Kara had presented her report] and Jennifer Alexander, Manager at Scott Moncrieff, Auditors [until she had presented her report].

**1. Annual General Meeting Business**

- a) The minutes of the AGM of 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2017 were approved.
- b) The chairman's annual report was approved.
- c) The trustees approved the Audited Accounts and Auditors Reports. The accounts were signed. The chairman signed the audit letter.
- d) Walter Semple was appointed chairman for the succeeding year.
- e) A decision on appointment of auditors was deferred.
- f) The trustees had received from Glasgow City Council intimation that in future there would be a £5000 annual fee for administration and that the trust would require to pay the audit fee. Kara Wilson explained that the intention was that this would take effect from 1 April 2018. The trustees did not accept that a change of this kind could be made retrospectively or without reasonable notice. The trustees agreed that they would consider the proposal and revert to the City Council with a new proposal for administering trust funds and for their audit. They would do this in time for the next trustees meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- g) In response to a question about whether a change in accounting arrangements would result in a change in investing arrangements, Kara Wilson explained that there were other trusts which had made separate accounting arrangements but where the investment arrangements with Glasgow City Council through Ruffer remained in place. As there was precedent for this arrangement, she thought would probably be available. The trustees would take this into account in their deliberations.

**2. Minute of Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

The trustees approved the minute of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

**3. Financial Report.**

Kara Wilson spoke to her written report. The value of the trust investment fund on 09.10.2018 was £378,255.

**4. Report by Fiona McKinnon**

The trustees discussed the tabled report on the proposed lighting scheme. No cost for the scheme had been received. The Trustees agreed that a solution needed to be found urgently and that the works should be completed by Easter 2019. Fiona McKinnon noted that she

would contact the contractors for cost information and the Trustees agreed to consider this further at their next meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

An updated report on visitor numbers to include the September and October visitors was tabled by LES. The total number of visitors was 5440 compared with 3869 in 2017. David Webster also produced a review of visitor numbers which took into account some arithmetic errors in the recording data. This indicated a total for 2018 of 5743 visitors compared to 4507 in 2017 (a 27% increase). The good weather in the spring and early summer was cited as the main reason for the increase. His report also analysed the comments book for 2018. 293 visitors (about 5% of the total) had made comments in the book. 158 came from Glasgow. 72 came from elsewhere in Scotland 12 came from England and 51 came from outside UK. The comments indicated high level of interest in the Fossil Grove but there were many negative comments about the lighting and the state of the building.

### **5. Environmental Monitoring**

David Webster spoke to the report which he had prepared and circulated, and also to a progress report from Historic Environment Scotland which he tabled.

- The three new monitoring units had been installed at appropriate locations suggested by HES and were showing more accurate humidity readings. The original sensor is being investigated and its probe may need changing.
- David spoke to the Report of Historic Environment Scotland on their visits on 8th and 25<sup>th</sup> October, both preliminary visits to plan the initial works proposed as part of their phase II Schedule of Works. This report had been circulated to the trustees. The HES progress report would be sent out with the minutes. The trustees recorded their gratitude to HES.
- The trustees agreed to refund David Webster £1509.72 for the three new monitors, installation support and a software upgrade.
- David produced photographs showing the exterior drainage work which had been recently done by Hanlons in the NE corner (where a section of old clay drains had been replaced) and the area around the central downpipe on the northern wall which had been repaired). He and Neil Robertson emphasised the importance of regular clearance of leaves and Fiona McKinnon agreed to undertake the twice-yearly clearance over the winter months.
- Fiona said that Donald Linn who is a geologist employed by Glasgow City Council wished to receive information about Fossil Grove. It was agreed that David Webster would provide this to Donald, meet him at the Fossil Grove to review the environmental conditions and in addition invite him to join the Advisory Group.

### **6. A future for Fossil Grove**

Campbell Forrest reported that, based on an undertaking to give help and advice to the trustees but not funding, a meeting had been held with Glasgow Life at their office on 4th October. It was attended by the Walter Semple, Campbell Forrest, David Webster and Michael Herrigan with Jill Miller and Duncan Dornan of Glasgow Life. Unfortunately, the timing of the meeting clashed with other commitments of the three Councillor trustees, but it had been impractical to rearrange the meeting. The outcome of the meeting was positive and encouraging. The Chief Executive of Scottish Natural Heritage, Francesca Osowska, had

called a meeting at the Fossil Grove on 19<sup>th</sup> November. A full report of the meeting would be provided to the trustees.

The trustees authorised Campbell Forrest to take the action he considered appropriate to take matters forward with the help of other trustees if necessary. The trustees recognised that it would be necessary to be regularly informed about the progress of discussions with Glasgow Life and Glasgow City Council.

A special further trustees meeting to consider this issue should take place on 20<sup>th</sup> November at 16.30 in the City Chambers. Maggie McTernan would arrange a meeting room.

The importance of good communication with the Victoria Park Working Group, and the proposed Community Trust was full acknowledged. A preliminary discussion had taken place with Heritage Lottery Fund intended to revive the 2014 Application with the previous objections addressed.

#### **7. Future trust meetings**

20 November 2018	at 16. 30
29 January 2019	at 10. 00
30 April 2019	at 10. 00
13 August 2019	at 10. 00
29 October 2019	at 10. 00