

FOSSIL GROVE TRUST
MEETING OF TRUSTEES
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH APRIL 2022 AT 10.00
BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Present: Walter Semple (WS) (Chair); Elizabeth Brown (EB), Councillor Feargal Dalton (FD); Campbell Forrest (CF); David Webster (DW); Ian Veitch (IV).

In attendance: Alex Fleming Knox, Rachel Smith, Jane Mathieson

Apologies: Neil Robertson (NR). Michael Herrigan (MH)

1. Minute of the Trustees Meeting on 2nd February 2022.

This was approved.

2. Chairmans Report

Chairman referred to his Report dated 25th April which had been sent to the Trustees. This was noted. The Report explained that DW, WS, CF and IV has been acting as an informal working party to do the work needed to take matters forward. It asked the question: Are the trustees content that the present working party continues to carry out the work of implementing the restoration of Fossil Grove on behalf and accountable to the trustees, on the basis that the trustees may at any time change those who comprise it? The trustees agreed that they were content with this.

3. Financial Report from Ruffer for March 2022

IV referred to the Ruffer report. Growth of the accumulation shares over 1 year had been 6.8% and over 3 years had been 32.1%. This was a good performance.

4. Proposal to form SCIO

It was agreed provisionally to proceed to appoint the board on the following basis:

Geological Society of Glasgow	4 members
Glasgow City Council:	2 members
Victoria Park Community Trust	1 member
Whiteinch Community Council	1 member
Friends of Victoria Park	1 member
FGT SCIO Board	1 member
Total	10 members

Maximum number of trustees 10

Minimum number of trustees 6

Board Quorum 6

The draft provided for a casting vote for the chairperson of the Board.

There were no other comments on the draft submitted.

Before applying to OSCR, WS would consult with Glasgow City Council per Alex Fleming Knox.

5. Report from Smith Scott Mullan

The Report from Jamie Bateman was noted. We awaited the drawings referred to and the proposals/specifications for having the work carried out. IV reported that along with WS he had considered the invoices rendered by Smith Scott Mullan and recommended the unpaid invoice for payment. This was accepted. Agreed to accept the proposals for Phase 1 of the works.

6. Current Issues at Fossil Grove.

DW said that the City needed to ensure a reliable power supply for the time lapse cameras. CF asked why the monitors were being raised. DW said that this was in accordance with advice from HES.

DW and EB reported serious vandalism at Fossil Grove. This was of great concern. Discussions were taking place with the police. There are a number of security features which need to be made effective or installed including the alarm and the CCTV cameras which are useless as presently sited.

There was concern over the vulnerability of an exposed gas pipe.

Rachel Smith and Alex said that these matters were noted and would be considered for action.

7. Relationship with Glasgow City Council.

Alex Fleming Knox said that that we need a short term agreement to regulate the current use of the building leading to a long term agreement when the final form of the redeveloped building was established. DW said that we need to separate the maintenance issues and the development issues. The trustees did not want to accept the building in its present defective condition. It was agreed that it was necessary to have clarity on the relationship between the Trust and the City. WS and EB would form a working party with Alex Fleming Knox and Rachel Smith to move the work forward.

8. Treasurers Report.

The Treasurer had circulated a draft Financial Summary for the year ended 31st March. He gave the following report.

“As 31st March was the FGT financial year end I have attached a draft summary of our finances for this meeting. I have estimated the increase in the value of the Ruffer fund, but the rest of the figures should be accurate. In summary we started the year with funds of £428k and after receiving grants from AHF and HES and paying for maintenance and consultancy we should have funds of around £457k at the year end (assuming a £25k increase in the Ruffer values). However, we still have commitments of £26k so our uncommitted funds are £431k which is roughly where we started the year.”

IV proposed the following arrangement to avoid the need for small or routine payments to be approved by the trustees before payment.

- Under £200 may be approved by Treasurer
- Under £1000 may be approved by the Treasurer and the Chairman
- Over £1000 must be approved by the trustees.

This was agreed.

9. Events at Fossil Grove

A successful public event had been held on Easter Sunday attended by about 150 people. Geological Society of Glasgow intended to run another Open Doors Day on 22nd May. Frequent requests were made to open the building.

10. Trustees

Maggie McTernan appeared and bid farewell as a trustee as she had stood down as a Councillor. Her interest in the work of the Trust and her contribution to its work had been greatly appreciated by the other trustees.

11. Future Meeting Dates.

2022: 24th August; 26th October

Prepared by Walter Semple on 23rd May 2022.