



The Friends
of Harmers Wood Trust

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting on Friday 22nd September 2016, at 7:30pm
at 24 Hale View Road, Helsby Cheshire WA6 9PH

1 Present:

Mrs A. Davies (Chair and Company Secretary), Mrs B, Evans, Mrs P. Magor, Mrs H. Guest, Mr A. Marsden (Treasurer)

2 Apologies:

Mr P. Marsden (Director), Mrs P. Staniforth

3 Approval of minutes:

The minutes of 17th June 2016 were duly approved.

4 Treasurer's Report

AM reported that the bank account was now re-opened after the latest attempt to unlawfully seize the account by former Trustees. Lloyds Bank Chief Executive's Office confirmed on 2nd September the bank they will only recognise the company and its officers as legal representatives of the Friends of Harmers Wood Trust.

The insurance originally reported to be £160 had been paid but it had cost £20 higher than last year. Only authorised activities by the company were covered under the insurance.

Legal bills had been paid for Oliver & Co. at £450 but this had been covered with a similar sized donation by a supporter of the wood appalled at the activities of former Trustees.

Bank balance - £4,668.55. Savings account - £468.32

4 Chair's report

AD reported that she had met with the Trust's legal team on 22nd July and discussed the Charity Commission's latest response to removing Mrs T. Summers and others listed as 'Trustees'. The Commission accept that the current listed is disputed and are awaiting the outcome of Cheshire Constabulary investigations.

AD expressed grave concern with the former Trustees' sporadic activities including unlawfully changing the registered address of the company to Mrs Summers' home address in August 2016. After legal action, Companies House reversed the change and reinstated 24 Hale View Road as the correct address and deleted Mrs Summers as a 'director'.

Legal advice to the Trust had confirmed that by signing TM01 (change of director) and AD01 (change of registered address) forms with authorisation and submitting to Companies House, the individual(s) had committed a criminal offence under Companies Act 2006. AD explained that it may take several months to be able for the evidence to be examined and the police to investigate.

AD reported that two benches had appeared at the wood apparently donated by the Parish Council but never requested or authorised for siting at the wood. AD and PM to make further enquiries.

6 Management activities

AD reported that few of the original bat boxes erected in 2013 appeared to be present with woodpeckers possibly attacking the boxes and storms bringing them down.

PM had reported that he was assessing how the website could be re-constructed to ensure that all records and information on Harmers Wood was kept in one place online.

Initial enquiries had suggested that the cost would be less than £100 per year to re-purchase the domains. Committee members discussed the apparently incompetence of the former Treasurer David Summers in allowing the previous expensive website (www.harmerswood.org) to be terminated due to failing to pay bills and arrange for maintenance after he had promised to do so in 2014.

7 Any Other Business:

None.

8 Date, time and place of next meeting:

To be held at 24 Hale View Road Helsby on March 2017.

The meeting finished at 9:10pm.