

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Broomfield House Trust
Held at Burford Halls (Beatrice Newton Room), Burford Gardens, Palmers Green, N13
4AL on Tuesday 5th April 2016

Present:, David Abrahams, Ann Bishop-Laggett (T), Zahir Anwar (T), Roger Blows, Basil Clarke, John Cullen (T), Tony Elliott, Ivor Evans (Secretary, T), Kim Lumley, Paul Mandel, David March (Deputy Chair, T), Keith Maxwell, Michael Scholand (Treasurer, T), Guadalupe Turner (T), Colin Younger (Deputy Chair, T)

Note: current trustees are indicated by (T).

Apologies for Absence: Ron Tabor (Chairman, T)

Minutes of the AGM 24th February 2015 – The Minutes were confirmed.

Treasurer's Report – The report, by Michael Scholand, Treasurer, was noted.

In brief, the Trust has a healthy balance (£10,943.85 as of 31st January 2016), just supplemented by £1180.04 transferred from the account of the Broomfield House Task Force, which has now been closed (thanks to Ann and Adrian Bishop-Laggett and Roger Blows!). The Trust's account with Barclays has been closed, and replaced with one with HSBC, Palmers Green. Michael Scholand reported that the Trust had incurred a £300 penalty for late filing of its account to Companies House (a misunderstanding about the non-acceptance of the postmark as a filing date in the UK), and Michael insisted on paying this fine himself.

It was agreed that gift-aiding should be looked into as a way of maximising Trust income.

Chairman's report for 2015-16 – The report, read by Ivor Evans, was noted; it will be posted on the BHT web-site.

The report attempted to cover the key events of the past year, in which a great deal has been happening.

All meetings of the Broomfield House Partnership Board have been attended by Trustees, who have commented on drafts of the Conservation Management Plan, which has now been completed.

Most significantly, LBE and the consultants, Insall, are now focussed on one option and are currently evaluating costs and financial viability. This option is in-line with the outcome of the public consultation and comprises substantial community use of the restored house, which will contain a café/restaurant/events organiser, and arts-based income-generating activity in a redeveloped stable-yard. This would be the basis of a new bid to the HLF's Heritage Enterprise scheme.

Also, the Trust, with HLF and Historic England encouragement, is preparing a bid to HLF's Our Heritage scheme which will conserve and make digitally available key aspects of the House's heritage.

Appointment of trustees to serve for 2016-2017 - No trustees indicated unwillingness to act, and so were considered to be re-instated, as there were no objections. However, it was noted that two of the longest serving trustees (from January 2000) –Angela Esposito and Margaret Wilkinson - had not attended meetings in the last three years, and it was decided that the Secretary would contact them to see if they wished to resign.

After being duly proposed and seconded, Kim Lumley agreed to become a trustee.

Appointment of officers to serve for 2016-2017 – Ron Tabor, the current chairman (absent through illness) has told the Secretary that he was happy to resign. The Trust would like to express its appreciation to Ron for his long period of service.

Colin Younger was proposed and seconded as Chairman, and John Cullen as a Deputy Chairman.

The other officers (Secretary, Treasurer, and the second Deputy Chair (David March) were endorsed for a new term.

Other Business:

The Trust's position on the Options and Options Appraisal: This was mainly considered in discussion arising during the Chairman's statement. In essence, the Trust feels that Insall's chief consultant, Francis Maude, has led LBE to focus on a single preferred restoration option, outlined above, that is viable and acceptable. In view of this, it seems that further consultation is not needed, and would simply delay the project. However, LBE may not be in agreement.

Categories of membership: The Trustees agreed that all those non-Trustees (and ex-Trustees) recently or currently showing interest in the work of the Trust, for example by attending Trust meetings, should be offered “Supporter Membership” of the Trust: they would not have voting rights or financial obligations, but would be encouraged to attend Trust meetings and discussions, and would be informed of the Trust’s activities.

Trust policy on meetings and publicity: The restoration project is currently at a crucial stage, and the meeting felt the Trust should hold a general meeting, widely open to the public, in the early summer. The purpose of the meeting would be to provide an update on the status of the project (and the Our Heritage bid) and to arouse more interest and support.

Financial issues: Dealt with by the Treasurer's report.

AOB: There was none.

Date of next meeting: To be arranged, but dates in late June/early July are being considered.