

Eastertown Evolution Community Interest Company

Minutes of Directors meeting on 26th February 2024

Present: Lynne Booth, Peter Smith, Emma Smith

Apologies: Debbi Smith

1. Minutes of the last meeting – ratified
2. Matters arising not on the agenda – none

3. Steering group meeting

Lynne reported the steering group meeting on 22nd Feb went well. Geraldine reflected on the visit by James Heappey and how it proved to be helpful to hear the concerns of local people with reservations about the proposed common. Discussed steering group membership- both Colin and Geraldine had ideas about people who may like to be involved. **Action: Geraldine and Colin** to invite people to join the group.

Discussed funding situation, the steering group felt important to continue to fund raise whilst awaiting COF funding decision

4. Funding

Still awaiting outcome of application for COF. Agreed to pursue other avenues of funding; Action: **Lynne and Geraldine** to fund raise.

5. Website

The website is looking lovely thanks to John Hesketh and Peter Smith.

It now has enquires@Eastertowncommon set up. **Action: Peter** to set the system up on all directors' computers. Will be able to reply as Peter@, Lynne @ etc so it is a personal response.

There is also a QR code set up that we can add to any leaflets, social media posts that will link people to the website.

Emma suggested we do regular newsletters that people can sign up for.

Action: Peter to ask John about setting this up.

Lynne suggested minutes of meetings are listed as Director's meetings and steering group meetings **Action: Peter** to arrange this with John.

6. Policies

Emma working on the policies required. **Action: Emma** to bring them to the next meeting

7. Visit by James Heappey

Reflected on James Heappey's visit to see the site of the proposed site for Eastertown Common. It was a shame he didn't have the time to accept our invitation to also visit Lympsham (café and shop) but he clearly had a busy diary.

Discussed the strength of feeling by the local residents who came to meet James Heappey and it was helpful for members of the Board and steering group hear their concerns. These will feed into the next iteration of the proposal which will be presented at our next engagement events.

Emma is gathering data on some of the issues raised e.g. anti-social behaviour in our area,

Lynne has asked Green Wedmore for data on numbers visiting their beautiful community wood.

James Heappey raised the issue of covenant on the land to ensure it remains a green space.

Lynne had a discussion with Helen Brown, who has confirmed the land does have a covenant on it that states it can only ever be agricultural land, which is great as ensures it will remain a 'green space'.

8. Engagement

The next events are when we intend to show some 'visual options' of the proposed common. Having discussed timing and Easter, agreed on seeing if Saturday 23rd March 10 – 1pm at Lympsham Church and Weds 27th March – 3/3/30 – 6pm in the Manor Hall are possible.

Mrs Whiting, Head of Lympsham School offered the use of the Hall and timed so she could make parents aware and be able to attend, in addition to other local residents.

Mrs Whiting was also arranging for pupils to have their say about the proposed common.

Despite widely advertising the last event, including flyers in every home in Eastertown and Lympsham, social media notices etc – some people have said they didn't have enough notice. Hopefully with the website being live – this will be addressed, along with flyers for each home.

Action Lynne: To liaise with Mrs Whiting and Victoria Daintree to ask about dates and venues and to ask for an update on Lympsham pupils comments on the proposed common.

9. Land Update

Helen Brown and Lynne have been on regular contact. Helen is currently exploring her options following several valuations. Helen also reported that she needs to wait another 6 months before sale of land is permitted. Helen

also stated that her wish is to sell the land to our community interest company, however in 6 months' time this will be reviewed alongside our financial position and she may then decide to place the land up for sale via auction.

10.AOB

Succession planning

Peter raised another issue concern raised by some residents – that of succession planning for management of the common. Started to explore and discuss options – **Action:** To discuss fully at next meeting

Input from Dr Ann Codman's nieces Helen and Patricia for website

Peter suggested people may like to 'hear' the views of Helen and/or Patricia and whilst both are on the steering group other commitments have meant they are updated and input by meeting minutes.

Action Lynne to discuss with Helen and Patricia for their thoughts on something for the website.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 11th April 7pm at Eastertown House