

Eastertown Evolution Community Interest Company

Steering group minutes of meeting on Thursday 22nd Feb 2024

Present: Lynne Booth, Geraldine Jones, Colin Poole

Apologies: Patricia Brown, Helen Brown, Matt Small, Debbi Smith, Emma Smith, Peter Smith

NB – Jim Bishop has resigned; however, he will continue as an advisor and is undertaking a survey of the field. – thank you, Jim.

1. **Minutes of last meeting** – ratified

2. **Matters arising not already on the agenda** – none

3. **Membership of steering group**

Discussed value of increasing membership and discussed people who are interested and may like to join. **Action: Colin and Geraldine** to invite people as and when they see them.

4. **Update on the land**

Lynne updated the group: the land is currently being valued and Helen Brown is considering her options and the finalisation of probate.

5. **Funding update**

Awaiting the outcome of our application for Community Ownership funding.

Discussed other options – e.g. crowd funding, just giving etc. The groups preference is to continue with a wide range of funding options and to start by following up with the local businesses who have already indicated they would like to support with funds. **Action: Lynne & Geraldine to fundraise**

6. **Visit by James Heappey**

Re-capped that James Heappey asked to visit after Lynne sent him and other politicians and invitation to our engagement event.

Geraldine re-capped on her experience of the visit – how James Heappey appeared to be genuinely interested in the proposed common and actively listened to all that was said.

Reflected on how hearing 4 local people's concerns was really helpful and will inform next steps and further engagement.

Colin raised this issue of consensus and how unrealistic it is to expect to be able to please everyone. None the less, all views are valid and we're hopeful that actually everyone wants the same thing – the field to remain a 'green space', the challenge is making sure people's fears about traffic, anti-social behaviour and succession management of the land are addressed.

7. Engagement

Discussed how all the feedback, including Lympsham pupils, will feed in to the next engagement events where there will be visual options to look at and comment on. Dates yet to be confirmed by hoping for Saturday 23rd March in Lympsham Church and Wednesday 27th March in Manor Hall.

8. Website

This is now live – www.eastertowncommon.com

It is looking great thanks to Peter Smith and John Hesketh. Agreed be helpful if everyone in the steering group can have a look and let us have comments.

Action: All steering group members to view the website

Lynne and Colin to work on 'Did you know' ... for interesting historical facts/myths about Eastertown that will be put on the website

9. AOB – none

Date of next meeting – Thursday 21st March 7pm at Eastertown House