

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HOLLINGBOURNE  
MEADOWS TRUST LIMITED HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON FRIDAY  
4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Present:** Jim Findlay (Chairman), Ben Williams, and Peter Lee, together with David Ardley and Shaun Cardwell, and Members and Supporters, those present providing sufficient Members to satisfy the requirements as to a quorum.

1. The Chairman welcomed all those attending the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from Ian and Liz Willy, Malcolm and Adriana Smith, Prof. and Mrs Joy Romang and Mike Fletcher.
3. Jim Findlay, Ben Williams and Peter Lee were re-elected *en bloc* by unanimous vote of the Members.
4. Shaun Cardwell, as a proposed Director, spoke briefly to the meeting. He was elected as a Director by unanimous vote of the Members.
5. David Ardley, as a proposed Director, spoke briefly to the meeting. He was elected as a Director by unanimous vote of the Members.
6. Peter Lee briefly summarised the 2014 Accounts, extracts from which had been circulated with notice of the meeting. Attention was drawn to the importance of Friends of the Meadows, and the benefit of Gift Aid on donations to the Trust. There had been substantial expenditure on new planting and improvements, which included £3,300 expended on the Godfrey Meadow hedge and £2,500 on tree planting. Mowing pathways and meadow maintenance had cost nearly £5,000. The deficit for the year amounted to £6,600. The Balance Sheet showed net assets of £190,000, which largely comprised land and maintenance equipment. Cash held at year-end amounted to £7,400. In response to a Member's question, Peter explained that the first land acquired was Eyhorne Meadow, situated over the High Speed Rail tunnel at the entrance road into the village. This land was held on a 125-year lease, and the purchase cost of the land was being written off over the life of the lease.
7. The Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014 were approved unanimously by the Members.
8. The Chairman detailed the annual cost of maintenance of the Meadows and the overheads and other essential expenses. Funds at this level were required annually. Funds would also be required to purchase land which was not owned by the Trust but maintained on the understanding that there would be a future sale to the Trust. It was essential to increase the level of the Trust's income. A discussion followed, and suggestions included the possibility of the WI adding the Trust's appeal to their village circulations, appealing to neighbouring villages rather than limiting to Hollingbourne, linking the Trust's appeal into the Village website, and obtaining coverage in the Kent Messenger.
9. A review of progress during the past year was made by Ben Williams. The review highlighted work on benches, tree planting, mulching, watering, mowing, strimming, fence repairs, gating, and the many other tasks carried out. Ben stressed that the availability of a gang of helpers was essential to enable this work to be carried out.
10. A discussion ensued. It was suggested that The Probation Service might provide a source of helpers. Ben would contact. It was observed that shortage of labour is not a problem – shortage of cash is the real problem.

11. Complimentary comments had been made regarding Godfrey Meadow hedge – which looked excellent. Ben noted that Ian Willy had regularly watered the hedge when walking his dog daily.
12. Two of the planted Celebration trees had died, and two appeared sick. These would need replacement. Posts had been placed in the Meadows to show where further trees might be planted. Costings would be carried out, to include the new planting and maintenance. It was certain that the sponsorship charge for the next phase of trees would increase, although it could not yet be quantified. In the Meadows as a whole, there appeared to be space for about 100 additional trees. The intention was to site these around the field borders, and not in the central land.
13. In a final general discussion, it was suggested that some means of charging professional dog walkers for the use of the Meadows was desirable; it was noted that the installation of notice boards was imminent – these would communicate the “clean up after your dog” responsibilities; it was suggested that the notice boards could contain brochures and appeal documents available to be taken by users and dog walkers; it was suggested that the Trust should consider how to give something to the public for the donations sought – by holding events or competitions with prizes; there was general agreement that two events a year should be held, one in the Meadows and one in the Village Hall.

The Meeting was formally closed by the Chairman. Informal discussions involving the Directors, Members and Supporters continued for some time after the formal closure.