

Matterdale School Foundation

A meeting of Matterdale Parish Council as trustee of the above took place on **Monday 6th March 2023**, after the Matterdale Parish Council meeting that evening.

Present: Cllr. McAlpine (in the Chair), Cllrs. Lloyd, Holder, Dobinson, Mrs Wilson, Harrison, Shaw, Firth, Mrs Gore, and Mrs Bray. **In attendance:** the Charity's Clerk, Mr Brown and Mr. Phillips as Clerk to the Parish Council.

1. **Apologies accepted:** Cllr. Mrs Beaumont.

2. The **Minutes of the meeting on 9th January 2023** were approved as circulated and signed as a true record.

3. Cllrs. Gore and Bray **declared** their **interest** as trustees of Matterdale Community Association; also Cllrs McAlpine and Harrison as members of Matterdale PCC.

4. **Matters Arising: Proposed Housing by the Knotts, Matterdale.**

The Chairman and Clerk had met with Mr Winter and Mr Martyn Fawcett on site earlier that day. Mr Fawcett had been introduced at Mr Winter's suggestion to review the site and its proposed development, and to advise **how nutrient neutrality might be achieved** and the LDNPA approached to allow the proposed development to proceed, by issue of the planning consent already approved by its Development Committee about a year ago.

Mr Fawcett recommended that a **planting scheme** be prepared for the land at the Knotts to be retained by the charity. He was invited to view the Rushmire grazing land belonging to the Parish Council sic, so that, if tree planting there also would be required to enable the regulations re nutrient neutrality to be complied with, his scheme could incorporate all or, more likely, part of that land.

He was asked to put to the Clerk an estimate of his fees for advising further, which he agreed to do.

The meeting agreed that, within a stated limit, Mr Brown could approve the estimated fee and instruct Mr Fawcett to proceed with the work to be done before he could advise further.

5. Finance

5.1 Mr Brown reported that the **balances** were £901.23 at Nationwide Building Society (notice to withdraw the balance has been given to expire on 20th March 2023), £10,259.51 at Cumberland Building Society (deposit account) and £4,884.63 in the current account there.

Payments: It was agreed that £234.31 be paid to renew the Charity's insurance and that £720 (inclusive of PAYE be paid for the Clerk's salary for the six months to 31st March 2023.

5.2 Investments via the Flagstone platform

The Charity's investments through this platform stand at £376,389.66, the Clerk reported. The average income of the sums invested there now stands at 4.17%, he said. Recent investments have been on 12 months' fixed terms, the last of which end on 6th March 2024.

6. New Education/Community Building and other community provision

The Chairman tabled his report, as attached and available from the Clerk. He had discussed the Report with Cllr Gore and the Clerk immediately prior to the preceding Parish Council meeting. Briefly, their conclusion was that any affordable building would be substantially smaller than that which was designed by 2030 Architects (in large part by reason of the costs of infrastructure, let alone of providing a grid connection); the Charity must question its usefulness to the community (and as a source of the necessary income from outside bookings required to sustain it financially).

Councillors were given the opportunity to comment. It was noted that inflation in building costs continued to exceed the income from invested funds. This being likely to continue, the chances of even a smaller building being affordable are receding and are likely to continue to recede.

The decision on whether or not to build is currently further complicated, it was felt, by the predicted imminent sale of the Royal Hotel (over the last few years, operated to the great benefit of the Matterdale community), future relations with Watermillock Village Hall (where well attended events have taken place over the last twelve months or so) and prospects for the improvement of the Matterdale Church meeting room.

It was agreed that the **next Charity trustee meeting** would be **at 7pm on Monday 5th June 2023** in the Matterdale Church meeting room, by which time the result of the 4th May elections to the Parish Council would be known and the Charity might better be able to make its decision on the right way to proceed.

7. Correspondence or other business

None

8. Next meeting: 5th June 2023 (see above)

D. L. Brown

