

Matterdale School Foundation

A meeting of Matterdale Parish Council as trustee of the above took place on **Thursday 22nd February 2024**.

Present: Cllr. Mrs Gore (in the Chair), Cllrs. Holder, Dobinson, Lloyd, Mrs Wilson, Firth, O'Neill and Airey. **In attendance:** the Charity's Clerk, Mr Brown.

1. **Apologies accepted:** Cllrs. Shaw, Mrs Beaumont and Ms Newport.
2. The **Minutes of the meeting on 15th January 2024** were approved as circulated and signed as a true record.
3. Cllr. Gore **declared** her **interest** as a trustee of Matterdale Community Association.
4. Cllr Gore summarised recommendations to the meeting following the steering group's meeting the previous day. She thanked Cllr Newport for her ongoing work in relation to **nutrient neutrality and the proposed housing by the Knotts, Matterdale**, as summarised in the report of her work to date which had been received from Cllr Newport and circulated to Councillors by email.

A request is to be made to the Parish Council meeting on 4th March 2024 to permit **a trench to be dug in the Recreation Field** on 13th March 2024, the intention being to invite Mr Ben Long of LDNPA to inspect the trench and confirm that it is sufficient for him to note that development at the Recreation Ground had commenced pursuant to the planning consent ref 7/2020/3163 granted on 8th April 2024. The area to be dug will be marked out by Mr S Bull and Cllrs Dobinson and Holder will see that the excavation is made in the right place (and fill in the trench once LDNPA have inspected and given the confirmation required).

The above will need to follow approval of the contamination report (which is required from LDNPA before development begins and which LDNPA hopes to be able to issue when it has heard from the Environmental Health Officer, which it expects will be by 22nd February)

5. Finance

The Clerk reported that the **balances** were £11,284.26 at Cumberland Building Society (deposit account) and £3,695.79 in the current account there. The balance on the Flagstone platform was £389,285.28; the net interest rate on the portfolio is 4.35%. Three tranches of **funds will be available for re-investment in late February 2024 and early March 2024**. The Clerk was asked to reinvest the first available tranche for 6 months and to report to the investment committee on rates of interest available so that further tranches could be invested for 6 or 12 months (in each case using the information at the Clerk's disposal via the Flagstone website when the time comes for re-investment).

The **payments were approved** of £1,800 to the Clerk for his 2023/24 salary, £25 to reimburse him for his annual membership of the Charity Law Association and £25 for the Data Protection renewal becoming due to the Information Commissioner

6. The Clerk had circulated a revised draft of **the terms of reference for the steering group**. The draft was agreed with para 6 further revised to enable “informal” advice to be taken from a none Councillor, the fee for any paid-for advice required to be approved by the full MSF.

7. Arising from the various issues discussed at the meeting, and the reports of steering group meetings, **re the Housing Site:-**

7.1 the Clerk was asked to agree the **extension of time** for LDNPA to consider the nutrient neutrality steps to be taken (sending LDNPA a copy of Cllr Newport’s investigations to date).

7.2 the Clerk was asked to **contact Mr Graham Norman** as the architect for the scheme, in the hope that his information or contacts may be able to point MSF in the right direction in its efforts to comply with the relevant nutrient neutrality regulations.

7.3 the Clerk will suggest that Leanne Parr of LDNPA might be asked to accompany Mr Long to the site on 13th March (or other convenient date) so that she becomes fully apprised of **the land available for a mitigation scheme**.

7.4 the PC is to be asked to agree to the **meeting requested by Story Homes**, which MSF’s Clerk may be invited to attend (the appropriate use of part of the Recreation Field for possible mitigation to be discussed at such meeting).

8. Re the use of the Charity’s funds and the attainment of its objects

It was considered that there is no defined affordable building yet for the Matterdale community to consider but it was agreed that Councillors should be asked to put to the Clerk, in the next two weeks or so, their own **ideas as to how the community might be assisted within the objects of the Charity**, so that, at the next meeting of the Charity, the ground might be laid for a community consultation on the future deployment of the Charity’s funds. The Clerk will circulate a paper to Councillors to assist this process.

9. Re alternative sites for the new community/education building

Cllrs Gore and Firth, with the Clerk, met with Mr A Dixon, the new owner of the **Royal Hotel** on 24th January 2024 to ask whether the building and additional car parking might be accommodated there. Mr Dixon made clear that he wished to encourage community functions at the Royal (he offered a former studio there as a meeting place for MCA for the following twelve months or so -ie until he had his own use for the room). He has other priorities at present and for the next 5 years or so, and would not be able to decide his

response to the suggestion of new community building there until his plans for the Royal have been further developed.

10. It was agreed that the **minutes of the Charity's meetings will be put on the PC website** but, from time to time, as redacted. If the Clerk sees fit to redact part of the minutes, he will put the proposed redaction to Councillors before asking the PC Clerk to add the redacted minute onto the PC website.

11. Next meeting: Thursday 18th April 2024 6.30pm at the Quiet Site.

D. L. Brown