

**TVT Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd February 2022 at**  
**1930**  
**Thorncombe Village Hall Community Room**

**Present:** Mark Agnew (Treasurer), Richard Holt (Secretary), John Whitbread, Neil Croton, Janet Walker.

**1 Apologies:** Kate Cahn (Chair). The Trustees selected Mark Agnew as Chair for this meeting. Six other people had been in contact to say that they were unable to attend but wished to be kept informed of progress.

**2 Minutes of last meeting.** The report of the last open meeting at the Sports Club was read by the Secretary.

**3 Matters Arising.**

- a) It was suggested that future reference to Trustees should be changed to "Committee Members" as this was inclined to put new members from joining.
- b) An attendee suggested that the committee should set out priorities and then co-ordinate activities.

**4 Co-Opting new committee members.**

There were 11 attendees at the meeting in addition to the existing committee members present. Peter Waller put himself forward to be co-opted. He was proposed by MA and seconded by NC. All committee members voted in favour, and Peter was duly co-opted. No other attendees were willing to become committee members. It was stated that without a representative sample of new committee members, the Trust would have to close.

**5 The Future of the Trust:** The first subject to be discussed was whether to charge members an annual fee. It was agreed to offer the first year's membership free to attract people in, then charge a nominal fee of perhaps £5 per annum to cover incidental expenses. The funds presently held by the Trust would easily cover this arrangement.

The committee should draw up a list of partners such as the Dorset Wildlife Trust, Dorset Council, etc. to support their efforts. Farmers in the parish need to be approached with a view to offering to assist them with complying with the new government schemes. It was pointed out that some schemes require clusters of farms to combine to qualify for some grant schemes.

The county have declared a climate emergency and the aims of the new group should reflect this. Sustainable living and activities should be promoted.

The number of committee members needs to be increased to handle the expected increase in activities. An increase from 8 to 10 maximum would seem to be a good number to start with. Where sub-groups are formed for specific projects, a leader should be on the main committee. The quorum requirements would also need to be increased.

There was discussion about whether a further meeting was needed before the AGM. The present constitution requires a month's notice of proposed changes to itself, and it was agreed that there should be a meeting in early March to work on that. A draft constitution will be drawn up then. This will allow the AGM to be held in April.

On communication the attendees were asked where they looked for information.

Surprisingly, hardly any said they used social media. The TVT website is not generally used as a source of information. Most were happy with e-mails, and physical notices were clearly valuable. On the use of e-mails it was noted that GDPR (**General Data Protection Regulation**) rules mean that addresses should not be shared on bulletins, and that a position of Communications Officer would be good on the future committee.

**6 Johnson's Wood.** Dorset Council had been unhelpful in that they had not responded to requests for approval of the type of gate proposed. If the Trust has to close, then a contractor would be engaged to do the work needed. MA suggested that the gate could be sited much closer to the existing bench, which would mean less clearance and path laying would be needed.

**7 Any Other Business.** No subjects were raised at this point.

**8 Date of next meeting.** The next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd of March. Peter Waller offered the use of the Sports Club without charge, for which the Trust is very grateful. Therefore the next meeting will be at Thorncombe Sports and Social Club. Note that the AGM will now be in April.

The meeting closed at 2100.