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## **Minutes of the Pearson Trust Working Group Meeting**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 OSR 7:30 pm.**

### **1. Apologies**

Members present: Jane Paxman, Moyra Jacques, Alice Helyar, David Wiper and Michael Hampson.

Apologies for absence received: Debbie Robinson.

### **2. Minutes from last PTWG meeting**

Minutes of last PTWG meeting (January) to be amended by Alice.

### **3. Actions and Matters Arising from Last PTWG Meeting**

To be included within the meeting agenda.

### **4. Gressingham Village Trust CIO**

During recent meetings of the Gressingham Village Trust (GVT) the following motions were passed:

GVT passed the following motion on 23 January:

Noting that the Pearson Trust Working Group in Gressingham is investigating the feasibility of creating new community facilities inside Gressingham Parish Church, and without taking a view either way at this stage on whether or not to support the proposals, the trustees determine that they are willing to support the ongoing investigation of the feasibility of such a project by: (a) consenting to the Parish Council applying for a Community Right To Build Order which affects the Old School Room, in order to trigger a village referendum on the proposals (noting also that a positive outcome to such a referendum does not place any legal obligation on this Trust or any other party in the village to support or pursue the proposals); and (b) authorising grant applications (including, but not limited to, applications to the Architectural Heritage Foundation) to be made in the name of this Trust by the Pearson Trust Working Group under clause 14 of the GVT CIO constitution on condition that no obligation (financial or otherwise) shall be attached to any such application beyond any which the Pearson Trust Working Group is itself able to fulfil; and (c) supplying to the Pearson Trust Working Group copies of recent minutes, bank statements, audited and unaudited accounts and balance sheets and any other relevant financial information.

GVT passed the following motion on 27 February:

Noting that the PTWG in Gressingham is investigating the feasibility of creating new community facilities inside Gressingham Parish Church, and without taking a view either way at this stage on whether or not to support the proposals, the trustees determine that they are willing to support the ongoing investigation of the feasibility of such a project, further to item 5 at the GVT meeting of 23 January 2019, by authorising the PTWG to apply for the relevant CRTBO in the name of GVT, in order to trigger a community referendum on the proposal in

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an area exactly coextensive with GVT area of benefit, on condition that no obligation (financial or otherwise) shall be attached to any such application beyond any which the PTWG is itself able to fulfil. The trustees understand that a positive outcome to the referendum places no obligation on GVT to take the proposals forward, but that in the event of a positive outcome to the referendum, GVT, as the body applying for the CRTBO, by delegation to the PTWG or otherwise, will be the only organisation authorised to take the proposals forward should it wish to do so. For the avoidance of doubt, the trustees specify that they will recognise under clause 14 of the GVT CIO constitution the PTWG consisting of Jane Paxman (chair), Moyra Jacques, Alice Helyar, David Wiper, Michael Hampson, Debbie Robinson and up to 5 additional co-opted members.

Rosie Smith, Louise Stevens, John Hamlett, Martin Brooks, and Mary McClements, have all offered to serve on PTWG and were all co-opted on to PTWG at its meeting of 22 April.

Clause 14 of the GVT constitution reads as follows:

(1) The charity trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee or committees, and, if they do, they shall determine the terms and conditions on which the delegation is made. The charity trustees may at any time alter those terms and conditions, or revoke the delegation. (2) This power is in addition to the power of delegation in the General Regulations and any other power of delegation available to the charity trustees, but is subject to the following requirements: (a) a committee may consist of two or more persons, but at least one member of each committee must be a charity trustee; (b) the acts and proceedings of any committee must be brought to the attention of the charity trustees as a whole as soon as is reasonably practicable; and (c) the charity trustees shall from time to time review the arrangements which they have made for the delegation of their powers.

Proposal:

As a subcommittee of the GVT, which has put a requirement on the PTWG to have a right to co-opt the trustees of the GVT on to the subcommittee; does this meeting agree to co-opt the trustees of the GVT on to this committee (PTWG)? Unanimously agreed.

## **5. Funding Update**

The PTWG has received financial backing from the Christopher Robbins Trust (£4k) for structural survey works of the church and architectural plans for the OSR and has also now accepted the offer of £1k from the PCC.

The PTWG has also been successful in securing matched funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund of £5k.

## **6. Grant funding activity**

A number of pieces of work have been commissioned with these funds, including:

1. Architectural plans of the OSR by Chris Potts Associates;
2. Architectural and technical plans of John Hamlett's half mezzanine option;
3. Start investigations into the damp within the tower (including a timber assessment); and

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4. Business plan (part) for the project.

## **7. CRTBO Progress**

Project timeline was discussed and agreed that the PTWG would still aim to hold the referendum in November.

Consultation with the village to be held in June to possibly include brochure of the project which would be delivered to each household, another display in the church and an open meeting and feedback session.

Area designation – the application for the area to be consulted and covered by the referendum to be delineated by the parish boundary has been sent to Lancaster City Council.

## **8. AOB**

Churches Conservation Trust – Jane and David have consulted with the Regeneration Team, who is a consultancy within the CCT. The CCT are no longer taking on new churches to care for, their purpose now is to guide communities in the management of the buildings. This would be achieved by for example; providing ancillary activities that the church will support and increase public access to the heritage asset.

At the upcoming Parish Meeting a new member of the GVT will be voted on to the board; Jane has offered to take on this role, subject to other members of the village standing forward.

## **9. Date of the Next Meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 OSR at 7:30pm