

**CHADWELL MILLENNIUM GREEN  
CHARITY NO: 1075152**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

on

Monday 1st July 2024 6.30 p.m.

St Bede's Church Hall, Bishops Avenue, Chadwell Heath, Romford, RM6 5RS.

**The meeting had to be moved to the CMG at the last minute due to a certain trustee harassing and intimidating the church which resulted in the church cancelling the booking.**

**Committee Members present:**

Owen Timney (OT),

Sunny Rai (SR),

Daljit Rai (DR)

Meeting started at 6.49pm

**AGENDA**

1. OT was agreed as the Chair for this meeting.
2. Welcome by OT
3. Apology for Change in venue which arose due to the internal dispute. Alternative arrangements for a new venue were made over the weekend.
4. SR read out the following statement:

**On 29th April 2024 an EGM request, signed by two trustees, was presented to the chair at the monthly committee meeting. The required notice of not less than twenty-one days was given, as per section 14 of the Trust Deed.**

**A brief discussion took place whereby the treasurer claimed that residents cannot call an EGM. The health and safety officer dismissed it as badly written and cannot be submitted anonymously. Both then demanded the names of all the residents who were asking for this meeting and how many were attending, saying they cannot attend a meeting if they don't know who will be there. The majority of the committee decided to give the EGM little credence and failed to recognise that the request had been signed by two trustees, which complies with section 14 of the Trust Deed.**

**The Charity Commission (CC) state that once an EGM request is made, then Trustees cannot refuse. If they do the members or beneficiaries can still have a meeting. If only a quorum of trustees attend then the risk is that a small number of trustees can make decisions that are legally binding.**

**The EGM was called to address mismanagement by the secretary and former chair and the flawed appointment of the current chair. The terms of the Trust Deed and charity commission guidance were not followed, and they deliberately conspired to appoint a new Chair without proper 21 days' notice, in line with the Trust Deed, or a nominations process. The secretary and**

former Chair failed to provide proper notice of the AGM or disclose to the local community the number of trustee positions/roles available. The actions of the secretary and former chair were not in the best interests of the Chadwell Millennium Green Trust.

As a result, a legitimately convened meeting took place at St Chad's church hall, which was attended by a number of the local community.

Following numerous questions from residents which highlighted significant failings of the secretary, chair and previous chair, a number of decisions were made by the quorum of trustees present. These included the removal of the chair, secretary and two other trustees which was legally binding.

All trustees were presented with a copy of the minutes of the EGM and the decisions made. They also received notification of this AGM.

What followed was an array of statements from the chair insisting that; The presented EGM was unsigned.

Residents cannot call a meeting or vote.

There was an element of deceit by the trustees attending the meeting.

The decisions they made are invalid, as they did not follow the Trust Deed or charity commission guidance.

The proposed AGM was illegal.

Councillor Jones, who was not present at the April committee meeting, states that he was not made aware of the proposed EGM by the trustees involved.

A response to these and other points raised was sent back to the chair, by Trustees attending the EGM, but to date no further response has been received.

What has happened is that the Chair has allegedly made several attempts to cancel this AGM, by approaching St Bede's church hall and demanding the booking be cancelled. The chair and secretary also stated in an email to local residents that the trustees involved in the EGM have been reported to the Charity Commission (CC) and to any professional bodies they may represent, to determine if they are in breach of those professional standards. These actions are regarded as attempts to intimidate individuals, as to date none of the trustees present at the EGM have been contacted by the CC or any other professional body.

In addition to serving the EGM notice, another incident took place at the committee meeting. The treasurer accused 3 Trustees (SR, DR and OT) of being racist towards him. This was an unjustified attack, with no foundation or evidence.

A complaint was submitted to the Trust. The chair and secretary responded to the complaint made by those accused but failed to deal effectively with the treasurer. Instead, they met with him separately, where he apologised and stated that it was local residents who were prejudice towards him. No attempts were made by the chair or secretary to contact those accused to check on their welfare or how the incident had affected them.

Being accused of racism causes feelings of being unwelcome and isolated within the Trust. It creates anxiety of how others will now perceive you, anger, frustration and stress, affecting mental health and wellbeing. It also fosters suspicion and can inhibit the Trust in exercising its duty in an effective and constructive manner and can seriously damage the Trust's reputation.

**This incident still remains unresolved.**

**Finally, the chair has also claimed that all trustees were aware of the AGM booked for 27th July 2024. This is also incorrect, as that meeting only came to the notice of Sunny, Daljit and Owen when this meeting was booked.**

## **5. Apologies**

Bert Jones and Imran Wahib are Trustees still on the Board but have not responded in any way or turned up to this AGM.

## **6. Declarations of conflicts of Interests**

When you stand as a trustee you have to declare conflicts of interest that may harm this charity.

OT, SR and DR stated that they had no conflicts of interest to declare, and that there is no financial gain for them to be had as Trustees.

Member of public (MOP) asked if any new nominees would have to declare any conflicts of interest.

SR replied that yes, that was the case.

## **7. Matters Arising**

Any issues/ clarification from minutes of EGM of 31.5.24.

A request was made for the website address.

It is displayed on the notice board outside of the Green.

## **8. Nomination of Chair**

Even though we are in dispute with the CC and needing to resolve the situation, we still need a nomination for Chair. Procedure explained.

Owen Timney nominated by Jillian Fenton.

Owen Timney seconded by Mike Fenton

Any other nominations for Chair?

Sanjai Patel nominated himself

Sanjai Patel seconded by Kim Henwood

Show of hands for Owen 53

Show of hands for Sanjay 2

Are there any abstentions or those who wish to speak against? No

## **9. Nomination of Trustees (minimum 6)**

Minimum of 6 needed to function, in the following role:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Health and Safety Officer
- Volunteer co-ordinator
- Media manager
- Trustee advisor

We need to hold a Special General Meeting to select the new trustees, giving 21 days' notice. You can apply today or send us your application. You can identify the

role you are interested in and your skillset. We will then, as stated, give notice and convene another meeting and invite people to that meeting where we select the additional Trustees in the correct way

Closing date for nominees is 14 days from today via the email address which is greenchadwell@gmail.com

You can call Jyoti if you do not have internet etc: 07539 449963

Info will also be on the notice board

Vote will happen at the next meeting as we need to give 21 days' notice – proposal and seconder.

a. **Secretary** – taking minutes, helping Chair organising Agendas for meetings, taking meetings, answering emails. 1 person showed interest: Johnny. Potentially one other (name not ascertained)

b. **Treasurer** – 1 person showed interest: Jillian Fenton

c. **Health and Safety officer** – entails a general H and S check of the site. Making sure the gates work, proper access. 2 people showed interest: Johnny / Rishi

d. **Volunteer co-ordinator** – Organising volunteers who come to do maintenance, make sure the equipment in the shed is working and up-to-date. Need to coordinate monthly maintenance days and get as many people here as possible. 2 people showed interest: Kim Henwood, Bill Yeomans.

e. **Media manager** – would look after social media sites build website and FB. 2 people put forward: Arun and CB.

f. **Trustee advisor** – our vision is someone who understands the legal requirements of what we do and will understand the CC jargon, has an insight into Charity Law and makes sure we are all legal.

2 people (MO) put themselves forward: Moji and Mef

MOP suggested Gary

Gary - happy to advise on things but not to stand as Trustee

OT – not every role needs to be a Trustee position. Others can help with events, fundraising etc.

Gary – offered a venue for meetings which is his house on the corner of Jarrow Road and Bede Road.

## **10. Projects for next 3 months**

- Maintenance work on the Green

Discussion about the need for help in summer months as things grow very quickly. Need volunteers who can use the equipment and help keep things nice. Need to generate funding to work on orchard area and bridge. Benches need re-sanding and repainting.

- Membership

Discussion about the previous Trustees not wanting CMG to have a membership as that gives them the right to vote on matters pertaining to the Charity and a voice at an AGM, instructing Trustees what you want them to do and holding them to account. You have a voice but no voting rights.

Our aim is to give residents voting rights. It would enable you to refresh your Trustee group every year if that is what you want, and for other people to nominate themselves.

It would be good to set a number of conditions on that. A voting member may be asked to donate financially (e.g. £1 per week) and attend the Green for maintenance perhaps 6 or 7 times a year. That would give you a voting right.

We can put the money towards new equipment, events etc.

Membership is important helps the community engage with trustees and affect what happens in the Green. Please suggest anything you would like to happen in the Green at any of our meetings. A two-tier membership would be good; non-paying members would have no vote but can still come, help and take part in maintenance. This would require an amendment to the deeds.

At present membership would be offered to those living within the parameter set out in Schedule 1 of the deed.

- Fundraising

We need to generate an income for equipment and insurance. We have made 1 claim this year (a tree which had to come down as impacting a resident's property). Fundraising is important, and we look for suggestions on how to raise additional funding, crowdfund etc. so that we can generate an ongoing income.

- Proposals such as events

We would look to local residents about the kind of events that they would like to see in the Green. Not huge events due to size, but something that would attract the local community to experience the Green, help us raise funding and awareness.

A suggestion was put of partnering with Vision as they promote outdoor wellbeing.

This year is the 25th Anniversary Year. We would look at the community and what sort of event that they would like, e.g. stalls with food, face painting etc. Local businesses could come and set up a stall, perhaps donate 10% to the Green or something.

A concern was raised that there was no transparency from previous Trustees. And a Meet and Greet event with new Trustees when appointed would be welcomed.

## **11. AOB**

Concern was raised from a MOP – looked on Internet about the previous Trustees and noticed 22/09/2022, the total cash in the a/c was £1717. Nil payments taken out. Who was approved treasurer and where has the money gone?

SR explained - While there was the handover from the previous chair, there was 2 years delay in getting access to the a/c. Got access this year about £1400 was in there, with about £300 being raised this year. There is about £1700/ £1800 in the account now. Lack of transparency was a reason for removal of the previous treasurer.

It was pointed out that OT has asked for a lawnmower. Where is it?

OT - The current chair did a campaign asking 100 people to donate £10 to raise funds for equipment. She raised about £380 in total and so I asked for a new lawnmower. They said they would buy it but that was 5 weeks ago. The money is sitting in the bank.

It was also pointed out that a lot of residents are donating by DD and answers are requested from the previous Chair for the whereabouts of those funds

OT - In our last committee meeting, Treasurer said only 3 people are donating now. Everyone else lost confidence in trustees.

MOP - Is there a blueprint in place for your plans regarding expenditure this year?

OT - we use a company in Chigwell and can cost this out servicing during the year.

MOP – what is the overall budgeting of running costs? If we know minimum running costs, we can work towards a goal.

MOP – can we address this at the next meeting?

MOP – we can get support from businesses etc. We can bring down budget needed.

MOP – I have a quote for the repair of the bridge. Work is free but materials are £3000

MOP – useful to have a regular meeting which looks at finances. Transparency and accountability is important.

SR – agree. The minimum running spends are insurance and maintenance (including fuel) - £800 - £1200 or year.

MOP – what is happening with dispute?

SR – still in dispute with the CC. We will do what is necessary and right in the meantime. Please email any further questions to greenchadwell@gmail.com

MOP – looking at postcodes of those who attended tonight will prove that it was (mostly) local residents.

SR - 27th is the AGM called by the other party. They will go forwards. We should attend and raise questions. They should give 14 days' notice of where it will be held.

OT - Possibly on their Facebook (FB). They do not leave a note on the Board.

MOP – why 2 FB pages?

OT – the original page created for the Green, the admins have moved away. I have tried to contact but they have not replied. The other Trustees created a new FB page so they had more control over what was posted. Councillor Jones may also be an admin.

MOP – they are the admins so no one can post.

SR – if anyone wants to be added to the CMG WhatsApp Group, please let me have your number before you go today.

Meeting adjourned at 7.59.