

GRASSINGTON DEVONSHIRE INSTITUTE

TRUSTEES

NOTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2019

Present: Trustees David Wood (in the Chair)
Hanne Barton Mandy Clover
Penny Clover (also Treasurer)
Andrew Jackson Marion Field
Jean Slater Dave Tierney

1. The meeting had been convened to consider a letter, recently-received from Grassington Parish Council and to confirm approval of the transfer document, relating to the conversion of the GDI to 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation'

2. Transfer to 'CIO' status

The draft transfer document had been circulated for comment during November and Trustees were asked to confirm their approval of the document. Two signatures were given to the document on behalf of the transferor (GDI Charity No. 249787) and two on behalf of the transferee (GDI a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Charity no. 1185815). Following receipt of the approvals from employees and opening a new bank account to receive all payments and discharge existing and any new liabilities, Trustees confirmed their wish that the transfer become effective from 1st January 2020. In essence, the January 2020 meeting of Trustees will be established under the terms of the new Constitution, approved by the Charity Commission.

3. Letter from Grassington Parish Council dated 22nd November 2019

Grassington Parish Council (GPC) had responded to the Trustees' letter of 4th November 2019, indicating that the proposal, as a whole, was unacceptable. GPC proposed to set an annual rent of £5k and to charge 50% of the buildings and contents insurance (approximately £2k) to the GDI. A request by Trustees to meet with the Chair and Deputy Chair of GPC, to clarify the situation relating to the Trustees' offer of a one-off payment of £20k, to start the external building repair fund, had received no formal response. Specific conditions had been proposed relating to sub-letting which restricted GDI to two sub-lets, specifically one for a resident Caretaker and one for the Dales Playgroup.

Trustees considered the letter in detail. The proposed annual rent and insurance value combined equated to an 800% increase in the annual cost of 'use and occupation', agreed by GDI and GPC in 2017. The GPC's insistence that the building should require a resident Caretaker, throughout the period of the lease, would provide little or no flexibility for the potential re-location of other local organisations into the Town Hall. No account appeared to have been taken of the GDI having to earn £35k annually, to keep the building open.

After considerable discussion, Trustees decided unanimously that the GPC proposals were not acceptable, choosing instead to reiterate the offer in their letter of 4th November 2019.

Trustees declared their willingness to continue the work of the GDI until such time as GPC decides this is no longer required.

Action – Mr Wood to draft a letter to Grassington Parish Council, for comment by all Trustees.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.

DPW 3rd December 2019.