

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

Wednesday, 27th November, 2013

Present:-

Councillors Butler, Butler and Mrs Williams

15. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Williams and Mrs Winfield

16. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Resolved:- That Councillor Mrs Gill Williams be appointed as Chair for the ensuing year.

Councillor Mrs Williams in the Chair

17. **CO- OPTION OF TRUSTEES**

The Trustees were advised that the current list of Co-optees required updating and approving. The list of Co-optees requiring renew/action was as follows:

Councillor Mrs G Williams Expired 2012.
Retrospective co-option required for four years to 2016.

Councillor J Williams Expired 2012.
Retrospective co-option required for four years to 2016.

Councillor Mrs J Winfield Expired 2012- Due to becoming a Councillor.
Retrospective co-option required for four years to 2016.

Mrs S Butler Expired 2013.
Renew for 5 years.

There are two vacancies for non-Councillors. Mrs Butler and Councillor Mrs Williams would make enquiries for applicants.

Resolved:- (i) That the appointments be agreed.
 (ii) That two new Trustees be sought.

18. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest stated.

19. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November, 2012 be agreed as a correct record.

20. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chair informed the Trustees that the new resident had settled in to number 21.

No progress had been made with regard to planters in the grounds. This would be further investigated next year.

A ramp for the resident of number 15 had not been done due to costs and location. The ramp was to enable the resident of number 15 to gain access to a washing line. A solution to this would be to locate a rotary line nearer to the property.

Resolved:- That the report be received and the comments noted.

21. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Trustees received the Almshouses Accounts for the period ending March 2013 and were advised that the current position gave them £12,000 to spend on any repairs or upgrades.

Resolved:- That the information be received.

22. GAS FIRES

The Council's Maintenance Officer advised that the gas fire within the properties were causing the residents problems and were costly to maintain and repair. In addition, there was a Health and Safety issue as some of the ladies left the fires on overnight to keep their property warm.

A proposal was made to take out the gas fires, make good and replace with an electric fire which would be simpler to operate, easier to maintain and less costly.

It was expected that the work would cost approximately £2000. The Maintenance Officer would provide the Chair with more accurate figures.

- Resolved:-**
- (i) That the information be received and the comments noted.
 - (ii) That, subject to a satisfactory cost being provided, electric fires be put into all of the properties.

23. SITE VISIT

It was agreed that a site visit be arranged to the properties in the near future.

Resolved:- That a site visit be arranged.

24. CHRISTMAS GIFTS

It was agreed that the residents should each receive a cheque for £20 as last year.

Resolved:- That cheques be sent to the ladies for their Christmas gift.

25. WEEKLY MAINTENANCE CONTRIBUTION

It was agreed that only a small increase in contributions be made this year.

Resolved:- That an increase of £1.50 per week be made from 1 April, 2014 taking it up to £57 per week.

Chair

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