

Trustees Meeting via Zoom on 14 December 2021

Present:

Nigel Hill
Geoff Bryant
David Wallace
Dr Sue Baker
Mark Drummond
Sheralee Matravers
Stephanie Poulter
Rob Taylor

Margaret Partridge-Kean (President) and Susan McGeever (Secretary) were also in attendance.

NH opened the meeting at 10.05am.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Sue Burger and Vicky Lamb.
Marcello Riggio not present.

2. Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality

No declaration of interests and confirmation of confidentiality was agreed.

3. Notification of Any Other Business

There was no other business put forward on the day.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 November 2021

NH called for a proposer and seconder to approve the minutes.

Proposer: Stephanie Poulter

Secunder: David Wallace

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting and would be signed at the next opportunity.

5. Inspection Discussion Day and pre Zoom meetings

NH opened the discussion advising Trustees that they would all have read the agenda and the emails that have been received from Trustees and members.

SP felt that Maddy Buttner had made some very valid points and felt the Trustees had to be very careful to make sure that the Zoom meetings were not taken over by a small number of people.

NH advised that the Zoom meetings were to give members the opportunity to ask questions about inspections. For example, when did inspections start; when did we stop branding; when did we stop picking up feet etc. and then feed in their thoughts both verbally and in writing to the Trustees for a frank discussion to take place at the Inspection Discussion Day.

Attendance at the Zoom meetings would be limited to one meeting per member. The meetings would be recorded to ensure accurate reporting of member's views.

NH felt the Trustees should listen to members during the Zoom meetings and take those thoughts to the physical inspection day. Meetings will be recorded so a reference of who said what is on record.

NH I cannot see the actual Zoom meetings being fractious – single attendance not multiple attendance. It was felt it should be made clear to attendees that the Zoom meetings were not discussion groups or a forum for making decisions but simply a method to obtain members views particularly if they were unable to attend the actual Inspection Discussion Day.

GB felt that Zoom meetings were to make sure the membership fully understand the history and process of inspections as Covid may not allow everyone to travel. People can propose possible changes that will go forward to the meeting. GB suggested that David Brewer be approached to write a precis of inspections over the past century, their purpose and the changes that had take place.

This history of inspections would be assembled into a document that could be made available for the Zoom meetings (perhaps as a power point presentation at the start of the meeting) and as a document for members at the discussion day as well as being printed in the Yearbook.

The Yearbook should be out in time for the actual Inspection Discussion Day.

NH felt that two or three Trustees should attend each meeting and the Secretary would be present to record the meetings, however, he did not feel able to chair the meetings given his current workload although he was happy to take an active part in running the actual discussion day.

GB, DW and RT all offered to attend the meetings and it was suggested that DW act as Chair.

It was again noted the members would be able to submit their points verbally and via writing to Secretary prior to inspection day discussion in order to make the actual physical inspection discussion day as inclusive as possible.

DSBA expressed her concerns about the use of Zoom but was prepared to accept that she was in the minority with SP also voicing concerns.

NH felt it was extremely important that the membership had an opportunity to put forward their views and he hoped as many members as possible would attend the actual meeting.

The Zoom meetings would have to be regulated with one person speaking at a time and wherever possible in the order they put their hand up. The Chairman would have the right to ask anyone who was not prepared to abide by the meeting etiquette to leave the meeting.

Each Zoom meeting would be restricted to 20 members and if necessary additional Zoom meetings would be added to the calendar.

The dates had been published in the Autumn newsletter and would be published again in the Winter Newsletter.

NH would approach Maddy Buttner asking for her support in running the actual Inspection Discussion Day as they both had experience of running the previous event and there would be a great deal of preparation to do for the actual day.

The Trustees felt that it would be a very positive move if the Area Reps were all able to attend one of the Zoom meetings and, wherever possible, the Inspection Discussion Day itself.

NH and the Secretary would prepare a letter/email to go out to the Area Reps at the beginning of January on behalf of the Trustees and signed by the Chairman requesting their attendance.

NH closed the meeting at 10.45.