



1st Meeting of the Trustees of The Debenham Project

23rd October 2009

23, High Street, Debenham, Suffolk IP14 6QL

Present: L. A. Jackson (Chairman), R. Cockerton (Secretary & Hon Treasurer)

Apologies: Dr. J.P.S.Fielder

Purpose of the Meeting:

1. To instigate the Trust.
2. To discuss and decide upon actions relating to the application for charitable status.
3. To discuss the Trust's banking arrangements.

Item 1:

The meeting elected Lynden Jackson to chair this meeting and any subsequent meetings (subject to re-election annually). Consideration of Trust policies and delegation of powers was postponed until the next meeting when all trustees could be present. In the meantime, Lynden Jackson was authorised to take such decisions as are necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Trust subject to ratification by the Trustees of The Debenham Project.

Item 2:

The Secretary reported that the Charities Commission had refused to consider the application of the Trust for charitable status without evidence of an income in excess of 5,000 pounds per annum. The Chairman said that the support that was being suggested by the senior officers and members of Suffolk County Council exceeded this figure and we have offers of financial support from private sources which will match this. The problem seems to lie in convincing the Charities Commission that the project is a viable long term prospect.

The Secretary suggested a number of alternative approaches:

Firstly, to provide a guarantee from our private sponsors that 5,000 pounds per annum would be available.

Secondly, to cost the voluntary and (promised) financial contributions that had already been made which come close to the 5,000 pounds required, just to “get something done”.

Thirdly, to open our own bank account and lodge contributions in excess of 5,000 pounds and to discuss with the Charities Commission what further evidence might be needed.

Fourthly, the evidence of the Trust’s achievements, thus far, should be sufficient. www.the-debenham-project.org.uk

The Chairman was authorised to act in the furtherance of the application.

Item 3.

In the furtherance of the above it was agreed to open a bank account and lodge the private donations as a demonstration of intent and commitment. The Chairman and the Secretary/Treasurer of The Debenham Trust will open a banking account with The National Westminster Bank as soon as possible and lodge funds in excess of 5,000 pounds.

The other approach was to wait until the County Council could guarantee the funding for the project. This was not viewed as a viable option as this approach would inevitably lead to unacceptable delays.

The Chairman expressed his concern that such action as is taken might lead to our inability to claim back any tax benefits from our private contributions but agreed that it was becoming critical to have adequate financial arrangements in place.

Agreed actions:

1. Chairman to make any decisions necessary to the progress of the project (subject to ratification).
2. The Chairman and the Secretary / Treasurer to open a bank account and lodge appropriate funds.
3. The Chairman to act in the furtherance of the Trust’s application for charitable status.

Meeting closed.