**MINUTES**

**LENHAM MEADOWS TRUST AGM HELD**

**7.30pm 25 MAY 2023 AT THE DOG & BEAR FUNCTION ROOM**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and introducing the guest speaker Dr Nikki Gammans from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

Apologies: D Coorsh – Trustee

**APPROVAL OF LAST YEAR’S AGM MINUTES**

* Proposed by M Cockett
* Seconded by
* No comments having been received the Chairman signed off the Minutes of the 2022 AGM as a true copy

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Chairman stated that he thought it important to remember the core prime objecives as a trust being:

To promote the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the area known as Lenham and the surrounding area.

To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for those living or working in the area of benefit.

Since last year’s AGM, LMT have been making steady progress to enhance the green spaces that they own or manage for the benefit of the local community and visitors to the area in particular:

**Glebe Pond**

This is developing into a jewel in the crown of the properties LMT own and manage. The Chairman stated this amenity is going from strength to strength wishing the duck fraternity would realise this and set up more homes. LMT have regular volunteer days for all sorts of clean up duties and these events are advertised in advance by e-mail and social media.

On the Monday bank holiday of the King’s Coronation LMT held the ‘The Big Help Out’ when over seventy people turn up including many young people who thoroughly enjoyed constructing the bug hut now known as ‘Bugingham Palace’

**Jubilee Garden**

LMT manage this garden situated in the centre of the village, adjacent to the square which is open and accessible to everyone. Members and volunteers have spent a lot of time

planting bulbs and shrubs with a clear vision of how the garden will look.

**Land North of the Cemetery.**

The Trust manage this land on behalf of Lenham Parish Council with the intention of turning it into a wildflower meadow

**Kettle Meadow Field**

The Chairman stated It was with great pleasure that he could announce that LMT have completed the acquisition of Kettle Meadow Field a three-acre site in Lenham Heath, a stunning native flower meadow.

Richard Greenwood stated that Kettle Meadow came about initially by a meeting he had at Toulouse Airport while awaiting a delayed flight and a chance conversation with a gentleman who during that conversation informed Richard that he had recently carried out a survey on a meadow near Lenham. On his return to Lenham Richard contacted Valerie Woollven and John-Arthur Boyd who, with others, managed to raise the funds to secure the purchase of Kettle Meadow now acquired by LMT

**Working with Local Schools**

LMT always have the local schools in mind when planning events and are discussing how we best carry out educational visits to all sites.

**Working with Developers**

LMT are closely monitoring development plans as they come online, to communicate with developers the ideals of the Trust. This is regularly monitored and discussed at Trustee’s and Management meetings.

As previously reported we have put the following measures in place:

* Engaged services of a land valuer.
* Identified a specialist solicitor.
* Contacted and registered with local real estate agents.
* And have finalised a presentation to make developers aware of our aims and core objectives.

In conclusion the Chairman stated he would like to take this opportunity to thank his fellow Trustees and members of the Management Team for all their continued hard work and not forgetting the marvellous volunteers who, without their support, LMT would struggle to do what they do.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Valerie Woollven, Treasurer, had prepared a Financial Statement Year Ending 31st December 2022 showing

Revenue £9161.77

Overheads £5170.14

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Increase in funds £3991.63

Copies of this statement had been circulated to both Trustees and Management Team with copies available to AGM attendees.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

David Jackson, Membership Co-ordinator, stated

* There were questions raised last year concerning the use of the word “Members” following which this has now been changed to “Friends”
* LMT now has 63 members – 47 paying at £25

16 paying at £25 plus an additional contribution

* There are some membership renewals coming up this month and it would be appreciated if standing orders could be organised for renewals as opposed to paying cash
* Leaflets are in the process of being reprinted to include the acquisition of Kettle Meadow. The new leaflets and membership application forms will be delivered to all the new homes in and around Lenham
* Details of how to join are also in the Focus and on the website

**Question –**Mike Cockett suggested that LMT members be offered a reduction on the price of publications LMT now have.

**Reply -** The Chairman responded that this is something the Trust will look into this.

**LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE GRANT**

David Jackson stated that LMT had been successful in obtaining a grant from Maidstone Borough Council in the sum of £500 for use at Jubilee Garden some of which had been used to buy plants, shrubs and daffodil bulbs for the garden and LMT plans to plant two mature cherry trees to replace the diseased trees.

**Question:** In view of the growth of nettle by the bench installed at Jubilee Gardens and the fact nettles are known to regrow where they have grown before should LMT consider moving the bench installed at Jubilee Gardens?

**Answer:** At this stage LMT have put wood chippings down in an effort to get rid of the nettles

**DUCK FOOD**

David Jackson stated that the duck food is now on sale at the new farm shop in Lenham as well as the Premium Store. Hopefully the ducks will return to Glebe Pond shortly.

**FUTURE PLANS AND EVENTS**

The Chairman stated:

* With the acquisition of Kettle Meadow LMT will be implementing maintenance programmes for the different sites so they can be managed effectively with the resources LMT currently have.
* The Apple Pressing Fun Day’ is already in the events calendar and is scheduled for Sunday the 8th of October
* LMT are currently at the final discussion stages for the ownership of a parcel of land approx. 3-4 acres with quite a diversity of flora and fauna adjacent to the parish of Lenham. Updates on progress will be given through the usual sources.
* LMT Calendars are in the design stage and will be ready for sale in the autumn.

**PRESENTATION BY Dr NIKKI GAMMANS from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust**

Dr Nikki Gammans, who is a Bee Connected Project Manager for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust which was established because of serious concerns about the ‘plight of the Bumblebee’ and who have a vision to create a world where bumblebees are thriving and valued, gave a slide presentation on:-

* The different types of bee and their lifecycle– there are over 270 bee species in the UK
* The value of the bee
* Why they are disappearing – loss of wildflower meadows, farming intensification and the increase in pesticides and fertilisers
* What plants/flowers to grow to encourage bees into our gardens/allotments
* Some of the projects being undertaken by Bumblebee Conservation Trust

The Chairman thanked Dr Nikki Gammans

There being no further questions from attendees, the Chairman closed the meeting thanking everyone for coming and inviting them to help themselves to some light refreshments.

**MEETING CLOSED: 9.00 pm**