

Chairs Notes

Trustee Weekend Othona Bradwell

18-20th November 2022

Trustees gathered on Friday evening at Bradwell, after supper and Chapel we made our introductions. There are 5 new Trustees on the team. Chris Jones has joined Sasha East and Steve Barnes on the Bradwell Centre Committee (BCC) as a link Trustee for Bradwell. Steve is chairing the BCC and sharing the responsibilities with Sasha and Chris J. There is one Trustee vacancy on the BCC. At Othona West Dorset Chris Wilson is the new Centre committee chair, joined by Warren Douglas, Rachel Tocknell and Janet Webster. We have made a new Central Trustee role - Lead Trustee for Asset Development. John Smith has been appointed to this role, he has a background in charity leadership and finance.

There was much work to do together. We received a full written report from Richard and Debbie, Centre managers Othona Bradwell. Othona Bradwell has made a strong recovery after Covid, welcoming many groups and individuals. The option of camping is increasing the number of people who can stay at any one time over the summer. There are bookings in December and for Christmas and New Year. Othona West Dorset is also recovering after the restricted opening of last year, bookings have not been so strong, but they are breaking even and have held some events specifically targeted at younger guests.

Michael Hunt the Community Treasure took us through the finances, reporting performance against budget for the Centres and the performance of the investments which have fallen in value in line with global markets. We agreed a timetable for the preparation and sign off of budgets for 23/24.

Mark MacDonald, who is Lead Trustee for Safeguarding, as well as Board Secretary, presented the new policy for safeguarding and safeguarding procedures. These have been completely re-written following research and training that took place over the summer. Thanks to Janet Webster who has been leading on safer recruitment at OWD and to Richard and Debbie who have been involved in sense? checking the safeguarding procedures.

Dan Dutfield presented the work that is ongoing following the Fire Safety Assessments that have taken place at both centres. The action plans are progressing. Both centres have been awarded a 5 star hygiene rating for their kitchens.

John Smith introduced the new role of asset development. He will be leading 2 teams, one for each centre, to look at the condition and maintenance needs of the buildings and generate and consider options for future development. Also further development of the sites for nature and any mitigation necessary for climate change.

Richard conducted a full site tour, Trustees seeing the recent developments and the areas that need attention.

Phil Martin has taken on the role of Membership Secretary and submitted a paper to Trustees outlining ways in which the processes of joining and paying subs might be streamlined and better integrated with the booking system.

The open source database, CiVi, which sits behind our website needs to migrate onto a new version. This is an opportunity to review and update our websites. A working group has been formed, led by Warren Douglas, to scope what is needed.

On Sunday morning Steve Barnes led a simple service in the lounge (very heavy rain prevented us from going over to the Chapel). We reflected how well the new Trustee team had worked together and are looking forward to meeting in February 2023 at Othona West Dorset.

Clare Gough 25.11.2022