

## **Minutes of the Mavisbank Trust Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Held at 4.00pm on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**As an Online Zoom Meeting**

### **Present**

Sarah Barron - Acting Chair

Charlie Cumming - Trustee

Ellen McCalman - Trustee

Simon Shackley - Trustee

### **In Attendance**

Chris Lewis – Trust Advisor

Rhona Brankin – Trust Patron

### **1. Apologies**

Michael Steven - Trustee

### **2. Minutes of Board Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

2.1 The minutes of the January Board meeting were approved as a true record.

### **3. Matters Arising**

3.1 SB said that she had provided information about the Trust's 'Friends of Mavisbank' proposals to the Lasswade Civic Trust and Esk Valley Trust and they had expressed interest and included articles in their newsletters.

3.2 She had also been in touch with Midlothian Council's Ranger Service via James Kinch and Jo Cooke and both were very keen to get involved with a 'Friends' group and potential volunteering activities at Mavisbank.

### **4. Landmark Trust's Mavisbank House Project**

4.1 CL said that he had recently had a telephone update on progress from the Landmark Trust's project consultants and all the relevant information was provided in LT's press release on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. He noted that the house project was now clearly an LT-led one and that HES would have little involvement with it. Also, it appeared that HES no longer had any interest in being pro-active with regard to the policies.

4.2 RB noted that it would be a good idea to ask for the Trust to be included on HES and LT's press list so it could be kept in the loop when releases were being sent out so she would contact HES and Landmark accordingly. **Action: RB**

## **5. Development of 'Friends of Mavisbank' Group**

5.1 SS said that he had revised the first draft of the 'Friends of Mavisbank' leaflet so as to distinguish between its visual appeal and the need to provide necessary information. He would circulate a programme link and any comments and/or revisions would be welcome. **Action: SS**

5.2 CL said that a separate document which provided details of the structure and operation of the 'Friends' would still be needed in addition to the publicity leaflet and a poster. EM suggested laminated posters with QR codes could be posted locally so that people could access the 'Friends of Mavisbank' information online.

## **6.0 Potential Early Project Activities and Fundraising**

6.1 CC said that in order to make progress in setting up a 'Friends' group it was important that the Trust had a meeting with Pauline Megson/HES soon to gauge their level of support and the types of project they would allow at Mavisbank. SB said that she would arrange a meeting with HES and also an on-site meeting with the Council's ranger service. **Action: SB**

6.2 EM suggested that it would be preferable to meet with the ranger service first and then HES before inviting representatives of a range of local community groups to an informal meeting to gauge support for setting up a 'Friends' group and to attract potential volunteers. In the meantime the Trust should get on with completing the draft 'Friends' information leaflet and SS and CC said they would enlist help do so. **Action: SS/CC**

## **7. Financial Update and 2022-23 Annual Accounts**

7.1 CL presented the 2022-23 end-of-year financial statement. He noted that the very generous in-kind support of the chartered accountant, Fiona Fleming, had been a great help and had allowed the Trust to avoid the anticipated high cost of preparing the Trust's 2021-22 annual accounts. In addition, Fiona had indicated that she was willing to do the same this year.

7.2 If the Trust continued in its current 'tick-over' mode it had sufficient funds to cover its basic overhead costs for the next 12-18 months. However, to successfully develop the 'Friend' and volunteering projects it would need to secure new grant funding.

## **8.0 Social Media Update**

8.1 As he had been unable to attend the meeting SB said that she would ask MS to circulate an update. **Action: SB**

## **9.0 Any Other Business**

9.1 SS said that Citizen Esk were carrying out a project with volunteers to assess the water quality of the Rivers Esk and monitoring the water quality of the North Esk might be a potential activity for the 'Friends' group.

## **10.0 Date of Next Meeting**

Doodle polls for the next board meeting and for a sub-group meeting in May to be sent around by SS. **Action: SS**