

**Minutes of the Mavisbank Trust Board Meeting
held at 4.00pm on Thursday, 16th January 2023
as an online Zoom meeting**

Present:

Sarah Barron –Trustee and Acting Chair
Sam Black - Trustee
Ellen McCalman - Trustee
Simon Shackley - Trustee
Charlie Cummings – Trustee
Chris Lewis - Trust Advisor

1. Apologies: Michael Steven – Trustee

1.1 The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 28th September 2022 were not considered due to an administrative error.

2. Meeting with Anna Keay, Landmark Trust on Weds 11th January

2.1 The Trustees discussed the meeting held with Anna Keay of the Landmark Trust on the 11th January at the Papermill, Lasswade. Anna had explained that the Landmark Trust was intending to apply to the National Heritage Memorial Fund for a £5M grant for phase 1 of their House Restoration project which would stabilise the shell of the ruin.

2.2 Landmark's interest was in the house only and the funding bid would not include any work within the grounds which would remain the responsibility of HES. Landmark were keen to work with the Trust and were very supportive of its move towards becoming a community-led trust and the creation of a 'Friends of Mavisbank' group.

3. 'Friends of Mavisbank' Group Development

3.1 The Trustees discussed the practicalities of launching the Friends group. It was agreed that in the first instance to gauge the level of support for the concept it would be a useful to set up a meeting with several of the other well-established local community groups such as the Esk Valley Trust. **Action – SB** to set up initial meeting.

3.2 If the Friends were to carry out project work and activities within the Mavisbank grounds it was important that the Trust's legal relationship with HES was clearly understood by both parties. In addition, the input and involvement of Midlothian Council's Countryside Ranger Service who already work with conservation volunteers would be very helpful as would their advice on potential grant funding for any volunteer projects. SB offered to contact James Kinch, Midlothian Council's Countryside Manager,

Jo Cooke their Countryside Ranger and Pauline Megson at HES to arrange a meeting. **Action - SB**

4. Potential Funding and Fund-raising Activities

4.1 CL said that it was important to raise the profile of the Friends through guided walks, talks, association with Landmark's NHMF bid, etc., in order to help it grow and to secure funding for both its own development and for initial projects at Mavisbank.

4.2 It was agreed that any initial projects or activities should be simple and drawn from HES's Management Plan and/or those suggested in the 2021 HLF bid as they would be more likely to be fundable e.g. interpretation panels or vegetation clearance. A part-time community engagement officer post as had been employed previously by MT and ELGT would be a great help.

5. Financial Update

5.1 Chris updated the trustees on the Trust's financial activities to the 31st December 2022. It was noted that the Trust's 2023-24 insurance premium had increased to £370 although this was due to the previously approved increase in public liability cover that had enabled the 2022 Doors Open Day guided walks to take place.

5.2 The Trustees thanked SBI for arranging a token gift for Fiona Fleming in gratitude for her having kindly audited the Trust's 2022-23 Annual Accounts at no cost. Sam reported that she would be willing to do the same for the next financial year.

6. Trust Website & Social Media

6.1 It was agreed that a Friend's of Mavisbank Web page should be established to promote the Friends and its activities as well as include information such as the Woodland Trust's 'Tree of The Year Competition' or the local Orienteering Club run by Jan Clark. **Action - MS/CL**

6.2 SS suggested setting up a WhatsApp Group as a way of the Trustees keeping in touch more easily. **Action -SS**

7. Any Other Business - None

8. Date of Next Sub-Committee Meeting - To be decided by Doodle Poll for end of February and board meeting end of March. SS