

MIDDLE MARCHES COMMUNITY LAND TRUST
MINUTES OF 2023 AGM, 7th OCTOBER 2023

1. Attendance & Apologies

Present: Richard Keymer (Chair), Rosie Wood (Vice-Chair), Anne-Helen Harding (Secretary), Sara Braune, Jonathan Brown, Janet Cobb, Rob Rowe, Nigel Jackson, Mike Watkins
Ruth Dennis-Jones, Peter Rivers, Sue Crichton, Rosanne Bensted-Smith, Allison & Malcolm Phillips, Cherril Wilson-Toft, Keith Evans, Sandra & Pete Whitlock, Aidan Foster, Trish & David Howard, William Dunne, Jan & Martin Hegmann, Paul Harding, Simon & Sally Currin. Anne Stephens, Stephen Morris, Christine Pepler, Jean Garner, John Higson, John Bacon, Tim & Ros Coleshaw, Jean Brown.

Apologies: Richard Small, Adrian Cullis, Michael Carter, Patrick Cosgrove, Charlotte Hollins, Susan Lockwood, Sarah Jameson, Lorna & Geoff Taylor.

2. Introduction & Welcome

Richard Keymer opened the meeting by thanking the Shareholders and supporters for attending, He pointed out that, if they hadn't already collected them, a full set of the AGM documents were available.¹ Richard then introduced the presenters of a series of talks: Sue Rees Evans on Dragonflies, Aidan Foster on the prevalence of Ticks in Shropshire, and presentations on the MMCLT's lands: Aidan Foster on Cudwell Meadow, Rob Rowe on Norbury Hill, and Sandra Whitlock on High Leasowes.

- 3.** On completion of the talks, Rosie Wood welcomed the meeting to the session on Trustees' Decisions. Rosie emphasised the importance of all members' involvement in MMCLT's activities, but pointed out that only the Shareholders present could vote on the following decisions.

- 4. Minutes of Last Meeting** These were approved.

- 5. Annual Accounts 2022-2023** Hard copies had been made available. The accounts were approved unanimously.

6. Trustees seeking election for a second 3-year term

- a. Sara Braun, nominated by Nigel Jackson and seconded by Richard Keymer was unanimously elected.
- b. Richard Small, nominated by Rosie Wood and seconded by Janet Cobb was unanimously elected.
- c. Janet Cobb, nominated by Jonathan Brown and seconded by Rosie Wood was unanimously elected.
- d. Rosie Wood (Vice-Chair), nominated by Nigel Jackson and seconded by Jonathan Brown was unanimously elected.

7. Confirmation of Co-opted Trustee

Rosie told the meeting that the Board had been fortunate to have recruited Anne-Helen Harding to fill the role of Secretary, and she now proposed her confirmation. This was seconded by Nigel Jackson and carried unanimously.

8. Trustees continuing in their first 3-year term

Rosie advised the meeting that for information, the following members would be continuing in their roles:-

- a. Nigel Jackson (continuing his first 3-year term)
- b. Richard Keymer, Rob Rowe and Jonathan Brown (continuing their second 3-year term)

¹ AGM papers:-

Draft Minutes of AGM held on 27th November 2021

MMCLT Activities update 22-23

Trustees & Decisions for MMCLT Members (Shareholders)

Finances Balance Sheet for years ending 31st March 2023

All these documents can be accessed at [MMCLT 2023 AGM – 7/10/23 | Middle Marches Community Land Trust](#)

9. Questions to the Board

Richard Keymer invited all those present to raise any questions they had.

- a. Trustees re-election Various members expressed concern that Trustees could only serve two 3-year terms. Keith Evans pointed out that in business the FCA allows periods of 9 years. Ruth thought that the risk of losing 3 important and valued Trustees after completing their second 3-year period should be avoided. John asked if a change was needed to the Constitution to enable Board membership duration to be extended.

Jonathan responded by explaining that on start-up MMCLT had registered with the National CLT using their standard template. The Board could review this and could make changes, including to the Constitution.

- b. Trail Blazing Keith Evans wondered if the increasing number of applications for guidance being received by MMCLT means that we are blazing a trail. Richard said that most CLTs are dealing with housing issues and MMCLT is one of the few that focuses on land regeneration. As a result, the National CLT organisation often directs enquiries about land to MMCLT.
- c. Volunteers Jean said she was conscious that the increasing need for volunteers would put an onus on MMCLT's need to maintain its responsibilities towards them. Richard agreed, explaining that initially the Insurance and Health & Safety aspects had been provided through the Stepping Stones project. MMCLT do not directly 'manage' volunteers at present, he added, but we will need to give it more thought for the future.

On completion of questions, Jonathan proposed a vote of thanks to Richard and Rosie and a rosette to Janet for her heroic efforts. Richard thanked everyone for attending, and said he was anticipating some more interesting news during the coming year.

Mike Watkins
Minutes Secretary
11th October 2023