Malvern Community Forest

Minutes of the 2015-2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Sunday 19 March 2017, Prospect Community Woodland

Agenda

1 AGM welcome – Mike Goodfellow-Smith, Chair
2 Chairs Report – Mike Goodfellow-Smith, Chair
3 Changes to Objects of Malvern Community Forest (MCF)
4 Trustee and Management Team Elections
5 Chair-elect's forward plan
6 Refreshments and wood working activity

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Bob Tilley, Joint Vice-Chair; Dave Munday, Project Co-ordinator.

Minutes

1 AGM welcome

The Chair welcomed those present to the AGM. He reminded them that the papers for the AGM had been posted on the MCF website for a number of weeks, so they would not be formally presented at the meeting; and that all paid-up members of MCF present would be able to vote on Item 3, Changes to the Objects, and Item 4, Trustee and Management Team elections.

2 Chair's report

The Chair talked to his report, rather than presenting it, as mentioned in Item 1, as he wished to highlight some particular areas of the report. The matter raised by members from the floor at the last AGM, regarding the level of the annual subscription to MCF had been debated a number of times by the Trustees in the last year. The consensus had been reached that the Trustees wished membership to be open to as many people as possible, and the subscription should not be a barrier: it would therefore remain at £5. However, it would also be stressed to members and potential members that additional donations would be welcome.

The Chair reviewed some of the highlights in each of the reports. Prospect Community Woodland had had a successful and well attended 'soft opening' in June 2016, having been brought to a safe level for public access. Since then it had also been equipped with a tool store, a compost toilet, and wooden exercise equipment, increasing its potential as both a community and MCF resource. A number of successful events had taken place on site. Abundance had increased its pickers, its harvest, and its distribution, aided by the purchase of equipment that made picking, storing and moving the fruit much easier and safer. Townsend Community Woodland continued to be maintained and developed in tandem with the Malvern Hills Conservators, and areas for more intensive management identified. The Chair had also launched a major project to revive and extend Guided Tree Walks around Malvern, with trained guides, leaflets and books, with funding from the Route to the Hills project.

The Chair paid tribute to Steve Roe, out-going Treasurer, for his support and work during the previous four years in setting up and running efficient and effective financial systems which will serve MCF well in the future. He also paid tribute to Julia Goodfellow-Smith, who was stepping down as Promotion and Events Co-ordinator (and personal assistant to the Chair), for the successful event programme and good press coverage. Ken Timms (Vice-chair) seconded this: having seen a list of the rôles Julia had taken on, she will be sorely missed.

The Chair also intended to step-down, and had been nominated to become a Joint Vice-Chair.

3 Changes to Objects of Malvern Community Forest

The Trustees had been concerned that certain proposed activities might not fall into the current definition of the charity's Objects. After rigorous discussion regarding the need for and extent of change required, the Trustees agreed on the following changes, which had been posted on the web-site. These have to be approved by the members before informing the Charity Commission of the changes.

Existing objects:

1. To establish and maintain woodland and other environmental assets for the educational, health and environmental benefit of the local and wider community.

2. To provide opportunity to learn and enjoy crafts and skills.

Proposed objects agreed and recommended by the Trustees:

1. To establish, maintain and use woodland and other environmental assets for the educational, health and environmental benefit of the local and wider community.

2. To work in partnership with communities, charities and other agencies to increase the awareness, knowledge, appreciation and involvement of the general public with trees, woodland, other environmental assets and associated crafts and skills.

The Chair asked for a show of hands by those in favour of accepting the Proposed Objects. There was unanimous approval of the Proposed Objects.

4 Trustee and Management Team Elections

The nominations for Trustee and Management Team positions had previously been posted on the website. Those present and voting approved the following members unanimously.

Trustees

Position	*Member*
Chair	Ken Timms
Joint Vice Chair	Mike Goodfellow-Smith
Joint Vice Chair	Bob Tilley
Treasurer	Ian Caldwell
Trustee without Portfolio	Maggie Jo St John
Project Coordinator, Townsend CW	Dave Munday
Project & Membership Coordinator	Linda Hirschhorn

Management Team

The Management Team is composed of the Trustees and those approved unanimously to the following positions:

Position	*Member*
Project Coordinator, Prospect CW	Craig Hughes
Web site Coordinator	Ian Caldwell
Assets Coordinator	Paul Radnor

5 Chair-elect's forward plan

The Chair-elect, Ken Timms, first thanked the Chair and members for giving him the opportunity to serve as Chair, and thanked Mike Goodfellow-Smith for his leadership and commitment in developing MCF to its current position as a successful organisation. He outlined some future projects and events that are being developed and will be promoted over the coming months:

5.1 Adopting the grounds of the up-side of Malvern Link station, with the support of the Friends of Malvern Stations, sponsored by London Midland, to provide woodland, orchard and hedge habitats for a ‘mini-nature reserve’.

5.2 A citizen survey of horse chestnut trees – Conker Hunt – and a Conker Championship
5.3 In partnership with Malvern Hills Trust (as they will be) running a woodland day at Townsend Community Wood in November.
5.4 The launch of the Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

Alongside MCF's existing projects, and changes in key rôles, it is clear that there will need to be active recruitment of members and volunteers, to maintain momentum.

The Chair brought the AGM to a close, with an invitation to those present to partake in refreshments.