

GREENFIELD VALLEY TRUST LTD.

SPECIAL MEETING OF TRUSTEES VIA WEBEX VIDEO CONFERENCING
ON TUESDAY 7 JULY 2020 COMMENCING AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Mrs. Gwladys Harrison (Chair),
Mrs. Mary Auty
Mr. Raymond Bailey
Mrs. Brenda Harvey
Mr. Conrad Jones
Ms. Clare Hall

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Tom Woodall, Access and Natural Environment Manager FCC
Mrs. Sophie Fish, Museums Mentor
Ms. Pippa Gallagher, Countryside & Access Awareness Officer FCC
Mrs. Helen Mrowiec, Team Leader, Sites FCC
Michelle Edwards (ME) – Minutes

APOLOGIES

Mr. Ian Jones, Company Secretary
Mrs. Roberta Owen

Mrs Angharad Longley

Ms Claire Walker

1. Chairman's Announcements and Procedural

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 2nd Video Conference for Greenfield Valley Trust and thanked everyone for their presence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Re-Opening of the Valley Pay Boundary and Museum

Report by HM had been circulated prior to the meeting to all.

HM said that The Bake house hatch opening had been successful, the public seemed happy and were observing social distancing. This sets a good precedence for the opening of the park.

Volunteers – HM asked the board to consider allowing Volunteers to return to GFV. Welsh Government guidance states that this is now allowed. HM is currently working on a Risk Assessment for both Wepre Park and GFV. HM would like to start allowing Volunteers back with social distancing and hygiene measures in place. The Probation Service has been in contact regarding those on community service who have already worked at GFV returning, the same provisions would be in place re: social distancing and hygiene. GH said that most of the board are in agreement but toilet facilities would need to be looked at as would break rooms etc. – HM advised that she has written guidance on this and specific toilets will be allocated. HM also said that if anyone is shielding they will not be invited back and could only return after the recommended time which at the moment in Wales is mid-August.

An up to date information sheet for Volunteers will be printed with reference to GDPR and this will be signed by all Volunteers when they first arrive on site.

Social Services are keen to resume Volunteers coming back to GFV, HM is in contact with them regarding this. There is plenty of work that can be done with the Rangers and Wardens on site.

BH asked if we would be allowed under GDPR to keep the details of those that volunteer so GFV can create a pool of volunteers for future as part of the strategy plan. GH said that we can ask the volunteers that come on site from various organisations if their details could be kept for future plans.

The board agreed the return of Volunteers following the discussion.

Opening of the park and Museum to the public – TW talked through the proposal of opening up the pay boundary and museums from Saturday 18th July. The report has been adapted since the 1st June and has consistently been reviewed as Welsh Government have made new announcements, the last update being 6th July when 'Stay Local' was lifted and tourism was re - opening.

HM continued – appropriate measures in the valley have been identified for re – opening. A booking system will be in place online – all visitors must book whether paying or annual pass holders – this will be split in to AM and PM sessions with a half hour break in the middle of the day for cleaning. It will be limited to 40 people per session. Receptionists and on site staff will have sight of the booking system and numbers per session so if there are walk – ins it will be clear if they can be accommodated. This system will give a good idea of the demand and also how the site copes. Guides will be available for the wider Valley if the park is at full capacity. Barriers will be placed in the VC for visitors to split the toilets and the reception/shop. A one way system will be in place and only 1 family at a time in the reception area. The playground until further notice will be closed as will the soft play. The maze will be 1 family at a time and people will be asked to use the towers at the entrance to see if it is free.

Hand sanitizing stations with a lockable holder will be in place at various positions around the park.

The subject of the museum buildings opening was discussed. SF has concerns of the doors to the buildings being kept open and also that the cleaning of the museum buildings is not as straight forward as the rest of the park as harsh chemicals cannot be used on the museum objects.

SF was happy to re-evaluate the situation after a month of being open.

It was raised that the guidance of tourist destinations opening at present does not include museums.

The Board agreed that the pay boundary would not reopen until the Welsh Government had clearly stated that museums can open.

Action: Staff to monitor WG guidance in respect of further easing of restrictions.

RB suggested that at this stage the board members should agree the principles in the document so that when the announcement is made that GFV can fully open then HM, PG and staff can move forward with plans put in place. TW agreed that he will keep the GVT in the loop as and when news/guidance is received.

The Board were in agreement of the principles laid out in the report.

Discussion continued around the toilet facilities being made available to the public using the wider park before the pay boundary is open.

PG has been in contact with the receptionists and has plans for a new way of working which incorporates social distancing and new hygiene measures.

The idea of opening the VC and toilets to the public was discussed with the shop being manned by receptionists or GFV staff on a rota.

TW agreed that opening the VC before the pay boundary is a positive sign of moving forward to those members of the public already using the park for exercise.

PG said that the one way system which will be put in place for when the park opens can be adopted for those using the toilets and also those wanting to browse the shop or gain information.

Perspex screens are to be fitted and PPE provided for staff members in the VC. PG is discussing with the receptionists the protocol for cleaning the toilets during the day, a system will be in place before opening.

GH mentioned that the proposal for opening of the park was to have the sliding doors at the front and the door in to the pay boundary open for ventilation, will this still be possible as we will have to prevent public entering the park. PG suggested a barrier can be put in the open doorway to prevent people from entering.

The Board agreed to the Visitor Centre opening for the public to use the toilet facilities and to access the shop from Saturday 18th July.

HM said that this can be reviewed daily depending on how the public conform to the new measures.

MA raised the issue of nappy bins in the toilets. These along with hygiene units will be in place prior to opening and at present are on a collection schedule of every 2 weeks – this can be altered as and when needed depending on demand.

Discussion around annual passes and discounts to be offered. Many suggestions – MA noted that an extension on passes purchased after opening will have an impact on next year's income so a discount will be offered if not all facilities are open.

The Board agreed that current passes should be extended. PG will confirm extensions and discounts going forward prior to opening as guidance on what can be open may change.

HM confirmed that the rangers and wardens are now back full time and that good work has been going on in preparation for opening.

GH said that the wildflowers are nice and that maybe just cut areas needed for public to use paths. This was agreed by HM.

Other work going on in Battery Mill – funds should be available for this via FCC
Drainage Engineer

Lintel in shearing shed needs replacing – materials have been sourced from the wider valley.

Small business grant scheme – business rates relief. This was initially rejected but then reviewed to include charities. £10K has been received which will go towards this year's deficit.

PG has been working on updating the website with Daydream Designs – a grant for this has been received.

Fire alarms are to be fitted in Cym Llydan and Pentre Farmhouses – FCC have grant funded £5K of this.

All agreed that a lot of progress is being made.

4. Dates of the next meeting

The 21st July is in the diary for the date of the AGM but this can only go ahead if the audited accounts have been received.

The audit has taken place but the accounts not yet received.

Action: MA will email the accounts to the board once received. Approval from board members to be sent to MA via email.

There will be no pre meet before the AGM.

5. Any Other Business

BH wanted to draw everyone's attention to an email she had recently sent to the members of the board regarding Black Lives Matter. The purpose of the email was to alert members to the history of Greenfield Mills and the link with the slave trade.

BH was asking for agreement of the board to put out a statement regarding this and the position of Greenfield valley on this subject now.

CH said she has contacts in Liverpool University she could liaise with regarding this. RB has a paper written by Brian Taylor which he can share with the board.

SF agreed but also said that it should be done in a sensible yet sensitive manner.

Welsh Government are currently putting together a task force to review the connections with the slave trade in Wales so it would be a good idea for GVT to have an up to date policy in place.

Action: CH to liaise with TW and Liverpool University and bring any information to the next meeting.

GH concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their time and also the work they have done in these unprecedented times.