

Minutes Meeting Elder Farm Community Trust – Elder Farm – 10 July 13 – 7pm

Present Chris Zenthen James, Moira Bori

Absent with apology Chris Wright, John MacAndrew Daniel McMillan

Minutes from last meeting were ratified

It was lamented that no one else could find the time to come down to the meeting, especially on such a fine evening with so much to discuss

Architects have been down to the farm to view the site and have offered much information and advice. We have looked at ordinance maps dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries along with archived plans and have found that pre-existing wings now demolished (c 1978) might increase the footprint of the building. A group of eco-architects are currently working with the National Trust to produce a template of ethical sustainable solutions to reduce carbon footprint sympathetically and effectively in listed buildings for landlords and architects

The architects were all familiar with the process of working with the community and were confident that they could guide a team successfully through the funding processes to delivery, whether in two stages, first the upgrade of existing building followed by workshop/college etc project working within eco-architecture remit, or whether to do a feasibility study offering a view of what the site will look like, landscaping et al, allowing us to find funding for complete project including removal tarmac and concrete after build is finished. Clearly the roof and stone work are important. Advice from DM Roofing was that the timbers might be contaminated and should be removed then the stone treated for wood rot etc, so that new timbers are not contaminated. But he needs a design to work out cost

There are many reasons why we need to decide which architect we would like to work with. The general feeling was to invite them all - this is a community project

MB copied some earthship designs from the net and did a rough photoshop of how the site might look with earth ship wings – just to start off the discussion. Copies are to be left around for folk to look at along with a brief document stating what it is all about

The garden committee needs more members. We discussed leaving adverts asking for help, adding an invitation to Community groups to use the for barb-i-q / parties/ family events in the grounds. It is strange that folk don't seem to want to use the site in this way. We invited City Life creating writing group to consider using the site. Michael Alford thought the odd afternoons in the garden might interest his group which is based at Elder Library.

A conversation with the community police regarding vandal attacks and getting the building made safe took place. We discussed inviting community police to appoint a committee member to help get the project off the ground. At present the building is a risk to the community and gates have to be locked when member not present and members having time to be present regularly is a problem

John MacAndrew is hoping we will have a committee in time for his return to our midst – 10 days in order to start negotiations with the council re lease and existing funding which would pay for structural report / architect feasibility study etc. The lease, we are curious to find out more about, since seemingly it is causing a furor in city chambers, but strangely no one has tried to directly contact the group for over a year. Email and phone numbers have been specifically offered for this purpose

The Elder Farm Garden Policies document, the Elder Farm Community Trust Constitution Document and the Elder Farm Trust Documents were discussed. It was agreed that while the content was relevant in the Constitution and Policies Documents, some editing was needed. CZJ will be looking at that over the next week for the next meeting