

Westmill Family and Friends Group AGM
Saturday 13th November 2021 via Zoom -2.30pm

Present:- Liz Rothschild, Adam Twine, David Birley (Chairperson), Ann Darnell, Becky Norman, Rebecca Brain, Liz Taylor, Isla, Brian Layt Williams, Heapy Family, Gillian Roberts, Cirencester Co Housing (2) Sue Rees

Welcome:- David welcomed us to the meeting and welcomed Becky who has replaced Jan. Becky will be in the Office Monday and Wednesday and some Tuesdays. Also welcomed back was Rebecca Brain. Thanks was also given to Jackie & Ann for making soup for the FFG lunch.

Minutes of last AGM 14th November2020

Minutes were read and approved. Liz and Ann

Matters arising:

A film and video was mentioned in last year's minutes - pending

Site Report - Adam Twine:-

Very little to report! Work has continued as normal despite Covid. Adam has continued with general maintenance and tree planting. Tony has been mowing the grass. Site is looking good.

Liz Taylor asked about the bulbs and seeds planted. The bulbs are all native obtained from Nature Scape. The selection choice has been advised by a Botanist and refined over the years. Pyramid and Bee Orchids and Yellow Rattle were observed this year. Each year different species appear.

One family have asked whether a seating area can be created in the newer part of the burial ground - a site has been allocated action later in 2022 - Liz and Adam.

Manager's Report - Liz Rothschild:-

During Covid Jan worked from home. Burials had restricted numbers according to Government Guidelines. Families asked to stay in their 'Bubbles". Numbers disputed by families!

Chairs are wiped down after each Funeral and hand washing and sanitising facilities are provided.

Jan left in the Spring to move back to Oxford and take up a new post. We said goodbye to her at the Open Day in June - we were all sad to see her go!

The decision was made not the reappoint immediately. Liz wanted to reassess what was actually needed in terms of Office presence. She dealt with enquiries and office jobs. Adam 'plotted the site' and liaised with the Grave Digger

Beccy was appointed in October for 10 hours/week. She will advise as to Social Media and Facebook presence. Liz will work one morning/week.

There has been an increase in enquiries which has balanced outgoings.

Funeral Directors were 'wary' about Westmill and giving wrong information to families about how much time they could spend at the Burial Ground. This has now been resolved and Funeral Directors now 'Trust' Westmill! Green Burials are more acceptable due to Climate Change.

Vision - families seeing it as 'their' place.

Accounts - Adam Twine

The Burial Ground became a CIC 30 years ago. There are 3 Directors - Liz, Adam and David. The land is leased from the Landowners - Adam and his Sister. 20% from each burial is paid to the Landowners and when the Burial Ground is 'full' the money will be given to Charity.

The 'site' was running at a loss but now turned a profit due to more funerals, price rise and fewer staff hours.

CIC accounts can be viewed on line from Tuesday 16/11/21.

Adam continues to liase with accountant. We decided to use their bookkeeper instead of asking the administrator to do this. We forgot this in the meeting but worth noting.

Chairperson's Report - David Birley

Thanks to Jan for all her hard work.

Welcome to Becky and welcome back to Rebecca - good to have her back. For clarity Rebecca is not back in post but available to help for events like FFG day. She is working for Root and Branch again.

Been a very odd year due to the Pandemic.

Numbers were limited to 30 people when attending Funerals. At the moment there is no restriction apart from aiming for social distancing.

Events in June 2021 were successful and included:-

A 'weeding day';

Flower Identification Day (consider hosting our own next year);

Open Day - well attended.

September Memorial Evening well attended.

Liz's book is available from Amazon or Waterstones or most cheaply directly from PCCS, the publisher.

Welcome to new Funeral helpers - information day with Adam and Liz led to 3 new helpers. Two have got other work since the AGM!!

Thanks to Soup Makers - Ann and Jackie.

Thank you to Dorothy for reading a poem at the last Memorial Evening.

Election of Officers

Chairperson - David Birley Proposed by Brian Layt Williams, Seconded by Liz Taylor.

Vice Chair - Dave Richardson (proposed in his absence by David Birley, seconded by Brian Layt Williams) David to check Dave still willing to stand.

Secretary - Sue Rees Proposed by Liz Taylor, Seconded by David Birley.

Committee - all willing to carry on

Colin Crook

Jacqui Collins

Ann Darnell

Brian Layt Williams

Lucy Wilkinson Moore (need to check)

Dave Richardson

David Birley

Sue Rees

The role is not huge, Open Day visitors find it's good to have somebody to talk to.

Adrienne Morris also offered during the online meeting and afterwards Claire Morris her sister also said she would have some time so we need to thank them for that.

AOB

Beccy will be in the Office Monday and Wednesday 10am - 1pm. Tuesday - working at home, answering emails etc.

Beccy will be responsible for the website, keep Facebook page updated and look at other social media ways of promoting the Burial Ground.

Liz happy with the Website.

Need new Testimonials- send out a request via the website.

Will be good to get back to some sort of normality in 2022.

Thank you from the 'Cirencester attendees' for the team coping in such a difficult year.

Dates for 2022

Committee Meeting - Jan? I leave David to initiate this.

Open Day - June 25th

Memorial Evening September 17th

Family and Friends Day - November 19th

Work Days tbc nearer the time