

## MEETING OF THE NWT TRUSTEES

5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the organisation's well-being and activities. In autumn 2022, Local Giving, one of the bodies which has awarded Nettleham Woodland Trust a grant, suggested to all the charities who are recipients of its awards, that it is good practice for trustees to revisit their objectives and outcomes on a regular basis to ensure compliance.

Our charity, the Nettleham Woodland Trust, has seven trustees. These are Julia Ambrose, Sara Bright, Su Colman, Susie Mendel, Rod Newborough, Dennis Tate and Chris Williams. In response to the suggestion from Local Giving we convened a special meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to consider two major areas.

### First area of discussion:

#### **NWT CHARITY OBJECTIVES** – Adopted on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007

*“To provide and maintain community woodlands, wildflower meadows, orchards and wildlife areas for the benefit of the inhabitants of Nettleham, Lincolnshire and surrounding area in the interest of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving conditions of life of the said inhabitants”.*

### Main comments:

The Trustees discussed whether the Objectives of the charity had been fulfilled since 2007:

- We have provided and/or maintained and/or advised on new community woodlands, wildflower meadows, orchards and wildlife areas of different sizes in this area, notably in the Ashing Lane Nature Reserve, but also in Nettleham and on some school sites.
- Whilst the wording of the Objectives was felt to be rather old fashioned, overall, it was agreed that they covered everything we have achieved, apart from planting orchards. However, our woods are full of fruit trees and heritage apples were planted at Bishops Meadow.
- There was discussion about whether we should amend the wording of the Charity Objectives to bring them up to date, for example, to emphasise wildlife habitats more and to bring in the contribution of our woods towards climate change/global warming.
- While some of the wording could be altered, it was felt that this wasn't necessary.

### Second area of discussion:

#### **THE ROLE OF CHARITY TRUSTEES** – Local Giving checklist – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022

- *Ensure the charity is carrying out its stated purposes for which it is set up, and no other purpose.*
- *Ensure it complies with your charity's governing document and charity law requirements and other laws that apply to your charity.*
- *Act in the charity's best interests. It might sound simplistic but decisions must be balanced and adequately informed, and consider both the long and short term.*

- *Manage the charity's resources responsibly – they should be used only to support it and carry out its purpose, not be riskily used or over-committed.*
- *Act with reasonable care, using all their skills and experience, and give appropriate advice and guidance when required or requested.*
- *Ensure the charity complies with statutory accounting and reporting requirements – and be easily able to demonstrate that you are.*

## **Approach**

- The trustees went through the six points line by line.
- The discussion enabled us to consider some of the main events since 2006, what has gone well and also where we might have acted differently.
- We are able to demonstrate that we have complied with the statutory requirements and have used the charity's resources wisely to meet our objectives.

## **Overall conclusions**

- We concluded that our actions have met the criteria.
- However, there is room for improvement in certain areas.

## **Next steps**

These will be based on a number of key indicators

- **Activists** – attracting the next generation of enthusiasts to ensure our project continues to thrive for decades to come, a challenge for many similar organisations.
- **Commonsense** – not over-reaching ourselves in terms of budget or capacity.
- **Community connections** – extending our links with individuals and local organisations such as businesses and schools.
- **Income** – accelerating the quest of new sources of income because of the imminent end of the annual Farm Woodland Payments received during the first 15 years.
- **Organisation** – enabling more supporters to take on roles in the group.
- **Signage and publicity** – reviewing everything from the first (non-existent) noticeboard in the Ashing Lane carpark to flyers and information on the web.
- **Site maintenance** – becoming more systematic in monitoring the land for which we are responsible, and in ensuring that we deal with minor concerns before they become major health and safety and/or repair issues.
- **Wildlife and well-being** – reminding ourselves of and continuing to work towards the objectives agreed in 2007

And agreeing that the trustees should not wait another 15 years for a useful review of this sort!

If you have any questions on what is written here, please contact us through the website.

*Chris Williams*

Chairman

*11<sup>th</sup> January 2023*