

THE BASIL IONIDES MEMORIAL CENTRE Framfield Road, Buxted (Charity No 305192)

AGM Minutes 7th February 2023 – starting at 8.40pm hours St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Buxted

Present: Vivienne Blandford (Chair), Peter Coxon, Chris Humphrey, Fiona McQuarrie and John Rose and Clerks Beccy Macklen and Claudine Feltham.

No members of the public present.

- 1. Apologies:** Received from Adrian Marshall, Toby Illingworth, James Roberts, and Val Wilson
- 2. Annual Report – Read out by the Chairman Vivienne Blandford**

The end of the financial year to which we refer is the 31st of March 2022 the Financial Officer has also given you a breakdown of costs for the current financial year which ends, quite soon in March 2023.

We have carried out the usual maintenance on the Ionides land which includes regular grass cutting, tree surgery if and when required, playground inspections and any necessary maintenance on the play equipment. We also incur regular costs for emptying the dog waste bin and rubbish bin. We now have a contractor we can call on to carry out some of the maintenance required and he carries out regular inspections for us. Although we still rely on members of the public using the land to let us know if they are aware of any problems. This would include any occasions where anti-social behaviour might have occurred so we can pass it on to the police. We thank those public-spirited members of the public who regularly take on litter picking duties. Some of you may notice I said exactly the same last year-some things just do not change.

We may have to think up some ingenious ways of preventing some commuters who think it acceptable to use the Ionides Car Park to park there all day for free. This is in spite of a large sign saying parking is limited to two hours. We have noticed that the car parks are beginning to get busy again, after a very quiet period during the last couple of years. This could include keeping the car park barrier down until a little later in the morning.

The cherry trees, planted as part of the COVID memorial, flowered beautifully this spring and complemented other that had been previously planted as part of the surgery landscaping. However, I did notice, at the end of that long exceptionally dry spell, one or two looked as if they might have succumbed to the effects of the drought. We will have to wait to the Spring to see which ones break into bud. I just hope it is the ones, without the large tree guards that may have to be replaced.

This year we had to have removed the large swing seat and carry extensive repairs to the zip wire which has caused some damage to the land which will be made good, especially now the weather is better. We will also be looking at removing the table tennis table from behind the scout hut to nearer the football pavilion, not an easy task, so if anyone has any good ideas as how (or who) could help achieve this, please get in touch with our clerks.

As mentioned by the Financial Officer we hope to implement grants to local groups which will be separate to those granted, for a long time, from the parish council. This will be discussed and ratified at the March meeting of the Ionides Trust, after the parish council meeting.

- 3. Finance Report – read out by clerk Claudine Feltham**

Financial year 1.4.2021 to 31.3.2022

The opening balance on 1st April 2021 totalled £74,714.05 (divided between the two CAF Bank accounts). The overall expenditure during this period was £6931, which included the usual maintenance of the land and equipment, grass cutting, works to hedges/trees, litter picking and safety checks.

In addition to the maintenance costs £1824 was spent on the COVID memorial as suggested, by members of the public.

Income to the Ionides accounts is largely from the Doctors surgery rent (paid quarterly), plus a very small amount of interest is received from CAF Bank.

The total income for 2021-2022 was £15,164.

The closing balance for the Cash account and Gold account on 31st March 2022 totalled: £82,764.95.

Financial activity during the current financial year to date (1st April 2022 to 31st January 2023)

The opening balance at the start of this financial year on the Cash account was £35,115.09, and £47,649.86 on the Gold account.

There has been little activity on the Gold account since the start of the year, with just £177.74 interest received. The funds previously received from the dissolved charity of the Buxted Community Hall Trust which amounted to £22,535.00 are held within the Gold account. These funds would be used towards the cost of a new hall, should that project become live again in the not-too-distant future

The following tables show income and expenditure on the Cash account for this financial year to 31.1.23:

Income type	Amount £
Rent from doctors surgery	£11,372.85
Interest	£22.52
Profits from Jubilee events	£2294.91
Total	£13,690
Expenditure type	Amount £
Bank fees	£73.25
General maintenance (including repairs/renewals, safety checks, inspection, and litter picking)	£2,306.92
Touchwood	£1125.60
Insurance	£593.63
Grass cutting	£3,312
Dog bins emptying	£234
Tree inspections	£252
Jubilee Celebrations	£14,184.19
Buxted Bonfire Society (for bonfire and Christmas events)	£500
Total	£22581.59

Closing balance 31.1.23

As of 31.1.2023 the closing balance on the Cash account is £26,295.31 and the £47,827.60 on the Gold account (total £74,122.91).

Anticipated expenditure

Along with the routine expenditure, it is likely that there may be further expenses for repairs to the existing play equipment and there will be some tree works required. There may also be costs involved with the moving of the table tennis table.

The repairs to the zip wire are being funded by the S106 off-site play equipment fund held by the parish council.

Grants

It has also been mentioned that the Ionides Trust may start a small grants awarding scheme, as per the objective of the charity 'The object of the charity is (in the interests of social welfare) to improve the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of political, religious or other opinions by the provision and maintenance of a recreation ground'.

A draft application form and policy will be sent to the Trustees for agreement.

4. Consideration of an Ionides Trust Grants Policy

Members considered the Grants Policy and **agreed** this was supportable. It was decided to set a limit of up to £500 per grant unless there are exceptional circumstances. This item is referred to the next Ionides agenda to refine the terms and timing of the grant applications.

5. Discussion of future work:

Cherry Trees – as per the chairman's report, one or two of the cherry trees may need replacing.

Table tennis table & grounds following Touchwood work – to be referring to the next Ionides Trust meeting.

6. Kings Coronation Celebrations – Waiting to hear from Buxted Bonfire Society with any proposals they may have. Refer to next meeting.