

Walberswick Common Lands Charity

Founded 1901 - Registered Charity No. 206095

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9 November 2016

The Parish Councillors
Walberswick Parish Council
Heritage Hut
The Green
Walberswick
IP18 6TT

Dear Parish Councillors

**WALBERSWICK COMMON LANDS CHARITY (“the Charity”)
APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATIVE TRUSTEE BY WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL (“the Council”)**

Under the terms of the Charity’s Scheme the Council is entitled to appoint four Nominative Trustees to the Charity, each for a four year term. The total number of Trustees being seven. The Scheme was last revised in 2009 in consultation with the Council. At that time the following wording was included:

“The Parish Council shall endeavour to find Nominative Trustees that fit into the skills matrix adopted by the Trustees from time to time following consultation with the Parish Council”.

In addition it has previously been established that there is no legal requirement either under the Charities Act or our Charity’s Scheme to advertise vacant positions. The current Trustees being a mix of recruitment via advertisement, personal recommendation and the ex-officio position held by Rev. Brian Fisher.

Mrs Rita Woodcraft was appointed as a Nominative Trustee by the Council in January 2013 following the role being advertised by the Council in the Village News. Her four year term expires on 31 December 2016 and we are writing to inform you that the Council is now required to make an appointment for the following four year term.

While we acknowledge that the final decision on appointments is solely that of the Councillors, the Trustees would like to express their unanimous support for the reappointment of Mrs Woodcraft. She has proven to be a valuable and active Trustee. In particular, as a lifelong resident of the Village, Rita has an excellent network within our community and her wealth of knowledge provides very helpful context for our decision

making. Also with our incoming Clerk being a non-resident of Walberswick, the Trustees themselves will now be the first point of contact for some beneficiaries. Rita's network and approachability make her well suited to this task and she has volunteered to take on the role of primary beneficiary liaison.

Over recent years we have worked hard to increase diversity amongst the Trustees and we believe that there has never been a more diverse group of Trustees in terms of age, gender, education, economic circumstances, professional skills and life experience. We see Rita as an important component of this diversity would very much like to see the current balance maintained.

Finally, we would like to express an opinion on whether this appointment represents a conflict of interest for any Councillors. In our view this appointment is not a conflict for either Council Richardson or Councillor Sutton. While they both have connections to individual Trustees, this appointment (a) is for the benefit of the Charity as a whole; (b) is unanimously supported by all Trustees and (c) does not provide an individual benefit to any Trustee. However if the Council is unable to make a decision for any reason, Mrs Woodcraft will continue in her role as a Nominative Trustee until such time as an appointment is made by the Council.

We would be happy to answer any questions that Councillors may have either on this specific appointment or the work of the Charity in general.

Yours sincerely

James Darkins
Chairman