

## **Report from the Othona Trustees' meeting on 29 March 2010**

### **Present:**

**Trustees:** Sheila Maxey, Margaret Lydamore, Jan Marshall, Pat Price-Tomes, Bob Whorton, John Watters, Phil Melling. Apologies from Louise Heatley.

**Wardens:** Gail Dell and Tony Jaques

**Community Secretary:** Roo Bull and **Community Treasurer:** Steve Mortimer.

**Chairs of centre committees:** Chris Jones and Elizabeth Sayers  
Ali Tebbs as a potential trustee

### **People:**

This was Margaret Lydamore's last meeting after 15 years' service as a trustee and as secretary to the Trustees' Meeting. We will miss her meticulous attention to detail, her serious approach to all our business and her historical sense.

We welcomed Ali Tebbs as the new Trustee Secretary and appointed her as a trustee to take effect from the June meeting.

Bob Whorton was appointed second link trustee for BB.

The chairs of the two centre committees, Elizabeth Sayers and Chris Jones, attended this meeting.

We sent greetings and good wishes to Tony Sinden who had just undergone a quadruple heart by-pass operation. He had also offered his resignation as the manager of Othona's insurance matters so we are looking for a successor whom Tony will induct.

### **Taking forward the January weekend meeting.**

Most of the agenda consisted in seeking to honour the insights of that weekend. More autonomy for BB and more support for Bradwell was one of those insights.

1. With reference to the question of possible division of the Community into two and the statement of the trustees at that weekend that: "Complete independence is not in the best interests of the community as a whole now. However, we are willing to consider that as one possible option for the future" it was agreed that we should spend two years exploring new ways of relating and flourishing and return to reflect on this matter in January 2012.
2. The AGM on 18 September 2010 will spend time working on the shared vision and purpose of the Othona Community. John Watters agreed to take the lead on that.
3. The weekend 28 -30 January 2011 will be a mid-point, taking stock weekend, held at Bradwell and facilitated once more by Sharon Usher, who served us so well this year.
4. As requested, Tony Jaques and Elizabeth Sayers presented a paper suggesting steps towards greater autonomy for BB. More work will be done on these for the June meeting.
5. It was agreed that the Autumn meeting of the trustees should take place over a weekend at Bradwell when the Bradwell Committee was meeting. This meeting would concentrate on how best to support Bradwell and John Watters would work with Gail and Chris over the summer to bring a paper to the pre-AGM meeting on

- the agenda for that weekend. The dates are 26-28 November 2010. BB would not be on the agenda of this meeting.
6. It was agreed that on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 3 – 5pm there would be a meeting on membership and related issues such as elections and communication. At least four trustees would be present, together with the wardens and two from each centre, plus the Membership Secretary and the Community Secretary. Bob Whorton agreed to take the lead in this.

### **Financial matters**

Rupert Bragg, together with Steve Mortimer, our treasurer, presented the budget for the coming year which was accepted. He commented that both centres had managed to break even on their operational costs. This was a great achievement and represented much hard work. Thanks were also expressed to Steve and Rupert.

Rupert also presented a discussion paper prepared by the budget group (Rupert, John, Phil and Steve) on fundraising and budgeting. Once comments had been received from the wardens and trustees a revised paper would be tabled for more thorough discussion in June.

Sheila reported that an offer for the farm of £750,000 had been informally received from Strutt and Parker who lease the farm from us. We agreed to stick to the asking price of £1,150,000 and wait for the market to improve.

Sheila Maxey  
Chair of trustees.  
5 April 2010.