

The Othona Community Report from the Trustees' meeting on Monday 24 November 2008

Welcome and farewell

Rupert Bragg and John Watters were welcomed as new trustees. Their term of office would begin with the January 09 meeting. With great regret, the Trustees accepted the resignation of Dave Ball who tendered it for family reasons. His resignation would take effect on 1 January 09. Dave's very significant contribution to the work of the Trustees during his two and half years as a trustee was duly acknowledged, especially in relation to financial matters.

Strong words from the Treasurer

Steve Mortimer made it very clear to the Trustees that unless 2 East Hall Cottages was sold the Community would be bankrupt by October 2009. Although both centres were keeping their costs down, neither was generating the necessary income, and there was no longer any General Fund to act as cushion.

Good news on the cottage

Although contracts had not yet been exchanged, it was expected that 2 East Hall Cottages would be sold for £200,000 by Christmas. The Treasurer made it clear that at least half of that sum would be needed to reimburse what had been borrowed from the Bradwell and Burton Bradstock development funds, and to pay the various professional fees. The rest would be needed to keep Othona afloat for a few years, unless ways can be found to make the centres break even.

Monitoring our policies

The Community Secretary offered a draft remit for a trustee to oversee all our policies, both those which apply to the Community as a whole and those for which each Centre is responsible. A revision, in the light of discussion, will come to the January meeting and Louise Heatley agreed to take on this responsibility.

Burton Bradstock

The BB committee had met the weekend before and so had been able to begin to consider the serious financial situation and what measures BB might take in order to move back to the break even position of a few years ago.

The work to extend the car park and replace *Littleness* was progressing satisfactorily.

Bradwell developments

The Trustees approved the membership of the new Bradwell Buildings Sub-Committee (BBSC) as Jonney Aldridge, Trevor Darley, Dougal MacGregor and Annikka Hall, with Matthew Dell as chair, and David Williams as an ex-officio member. The Trustee member would be Tim Fox. The Trustees asked the BBSC to look for, and propose to the Trustees, a member with financial expertise.

The Trustees made it clear that the decision about which projects are taken forward rests with them in consultation with the staff and the Bradwell Committee. The role of the BBSC was to present the information needed, and then to carry forward the decisions.

The Trustees agreed that the first priority was to bring to the Trustees a current estimate for the cost of going on to the National Grid. They warmly welcomed those

'green' developments, such as the Wind Turbine, which were fully funded by grants as they could not offer any match funding at this present time.

Sheila Maxey
26 November 08.