

Report of the meeting of the Trustees of the Othona Community 26 September 2009

Financial matters

Good news from both the treasurer and Rupert Bragg, the trustee given a special watching brief for financial matters. Both centres have, 5 months into the financial year, managed to do slightly better than budget.

We formally resolved that three trustees, Jan Marshall, Rupert Bragg and Sheila Maxey, could sign on behalf of the Othona Community for the grant of £103,000 from the East of England Development Agency for the new building at Bradwell.

We formally approved the annual report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2009.

Othona 2010 and beyond: taking stock and moving forward

Since the June meeting, a small group of trustees had taken forward plans for a process to look at the present health and future direction of the Othona Community as a whole. The meeting approved the following actions and plans: an outside facilitator, Sharon Usher, had been appointed who was present at the meeting to discuss the process: Sharon would visit both centres to meet with the wardens and with the chairs of committees and perhaps others: Sharon, Tony, Gail and Jan Marshall would attend a *Moving Constellations* one day workshop to gain new insights to help the process: the process would culminate in the last weekend in January 2010 at Burton Bradstock when all the trustees, and six people from each centre would meet from Friday to Sunday. The trustees agreed a total budget of £3000 for the process.

News from the centres

Burton Bradstock has had, yet again, to look for a new, good builder within its budget to erect the new warden's cottage. It is still waiting in hope for news of a grant for photovoltaic cells for the chapel roof. A fire safety inspection has meant one three-bedded room being taken out of use. Nevertheless, it had been a good, busy summer.

Bradwell has got planning permission for the new building. The grant must be spent by March 2010. A very good summer season in spite of the theft of all its mowers.

Rupert Bragg, link trustee, presented a paper summarising his research into the history of the Bradwell Development Fund between October 2006 and January 2009 in order to establish how tightly its use had been defined in relation both to going on the national grid and replacing the Bank. He concluded: "The Trustees can allocate the use of these funds for the general improvement of Bradwell facilities as they see fit."

New trustee

We welcomed Phil Melling to our meeting and, after a brief private consultation, invited him to become a trustee as from the November meeting. Phil accepted the invitation. Phil runs his own business, KMATextiles Ltd, lives in Maidenhead, is a committed Roman Catholic and has visited BB several times with his family. He plans to visit Bradwell before Christmas.

Othona's archive

It was agreed that all the Othona papers which are more than five years old and which are currently housed at Bradwell in two overflowing four drawer filing cabinets should be deposited with the Essex Record Office. Kevin Bruce, currently our archivist, is making the arrangements. Once catalogued, anyone who wishes to consult the records can apply to the trustees for permission.

Other business

Jan Marshall agreed to consult with Carole Atkins about the implications of new government regulations concerning the protection of children.

It was agreed to consider, at the next meeting, a draft agreement which volunteers should sign to ensure they understood what working for the Othona Community entailed.

We are still awaiting a response from each centre to the paper on membership issued earlier in the year.

Work on a coherent approach to our various policies and the question of a community risk assessment are still on our agenda.

AGM 2009

We welcomed Louise Heatley and Bob Whorton's plans for the AGM and looked forward to that meeting.

Sheila Maxey
28 September 2009