

# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Notice of meeting

### Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust

Friday, 21st January, 2022 at 11.00 am  
County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance

#### AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for absence.	
2.	Declarations of Interest.	
3.	To confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust.	1 - 2
4.	Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2021 and Independent Examination of Financial Statement Report - Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust.	3 - 24
5.	To consider whether to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act. (Proper Officer's view attached).	25 - 26
6.	To consider a report by the Chief Officer for Children and Young People regarding applications received against the Trust Fund for the Academic Year 2021/22.	27 - 36
7.	Next Meeting: Monday 18th July 2022 at 11.00am.	

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive**

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Trustees:

A. Easson  
R. Edwards  
M. Feakins  
D. Jones  
S.B. Jones  
P. Murphy  
B. Thomas  
D. Havard  
R. Clark  
H. Morgan  
P. James  
W. Symondson

## Public Information

### **Access to paper copies of agendas and reports**

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

### **Welsh Language**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

# Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

## Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

### Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

## Our Values

**Openness.** We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

**Fairness.** We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

**Flexibility.** We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

**Teamwork.** We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

**Kindness:** We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.



# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust  
County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance  
Monday, 4th October, 2021 at 11.00 am

**PRESENT:** County Councillor D. Jones (Chair)

County Councillors: A. Easson, R. Edwards and P. Murphy

Councillor R. Clark (Torfaen County Borough Council)

Ms. H. Morgan (Coleg Gwent)

Mr. P. James (Aberystwyth University)

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Nikki Wellington

Finance Manager

Gareth Peel

Accounting Technician Trainee

Richard Williams

Democratic Services Officer

### **APOLOGIES:**

County Councillors: M. Feakins and S.B. Jones

#### **1. Mr. Penri James**

The Chair welcomed Mr. Penri James to his first meeting of the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust. Mr. James is Aberystwyth University's representative on the Trust.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None received.

#### **3. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record.

#### **4. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

We resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust  
County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance  
Monday, 4th October, 2021 at 11.00 am**

**5. To consider a report by the Chief Officer for Children and Young People regarding applications received against the Trust Fund for the Academic Year 2021/22.**

We considered six applications received against the Trust Fund, presented on behalf of the Chief Officer for Children and Young People.

The Trust resolved:

- (i) that awards be made to five of the applicants, as agreed, subject to appropriate receipts and evidence of attendance being received;
- (ii) that an interim award be made to one of the applicants, as agreed, subject to appropriate receipts and evidence of attendance being received. Also, that Monmouthshire County Council Finance officers seek clarity from the applicant regarding how the funding will be spent relative to the course being studied.

The total amount of funding awarded to students at the meeting equated to £4650.

**6. Next Meeting**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 at 11.00am.

**The meeting ended at 11.56 am.**

**Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment  
Trust Fund**

**Annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

Registered Charity Number: 525649

**Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund  
Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2020**

**Contents**

Trustees, officers and advisers	1
Report of the Trustees	2
Independent examiner's report	4
Statement of financial activities	5
Balance sheet	6
Notes to the financial statements	7



**Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund**  
**Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021**

**Trustees, officers and advisers**

**Trustees**

R Edwards  
Monmouthshire County Council

D Yeowell  
Torfaen County Borough Council  
Left during year

P Murphy  
Monmouthshire County Council  
Commenced during year.

Professor J D Hayes  
University College Wales Aberystwth

A Easson  
Monmouthshire County Council

Helen Morgan  
Director Usk Campus – Coleg Gwent  
Commenced during year

D W.H Jones  
Monmouthshire County Council

D Havard  
Caerphilly County Borough Council

B Thomas  
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

M Feakins  
Mounmouthshire County Council

Dr W O C Symondson  
University of Wales College Cardiff

B Jones  
Monmouthshire County Council  
Commenced in year.

**Secretary**

Matthew Phillips  
Head of Legal Services  
Monmouthshire County Council

**Registered Office**

County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA

**Independent Examiners**

Audit Wales, 24 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9LJ

**Solicitors**

Matthew Phillips  
Head of Legal Services  
Monmouthshire County Council

**Investment custodian**

Monmouthshire County Council

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank  
1-5 St David's Way  
St David's Centre  
Cardiff  
CF10 2DP

## **Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021**

### **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2021**

The Trustees present their annual report and the independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 of The Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund. The information with respect to the Trustees, officers and advisers set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and Charity Act 2011. The financial statements comply with the Charity's trust deed.

#### **Status and administration**

The Charity is governed by the 1959 Principal Scheme as amended by the Altering Scheme of 1971, although the governing body may rightly claim a history stretching back to 1894. The Fund is registered with the Charity Commission under Charity number 525649. The Trustees also have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

#### **Objects**

The primary object of the Charity, as stated in its governing document, is to make awards to students in need of assistance to attend Usk Agricultural College, or at the discretion of the governing body, any other college, institution or university to pursue courses of study in agricultural subjects. The governing body can use its discretion to apply any unawarded income to provide funding towards the cost of facilities or amenities at Usk College which would benefit these students. The grants awarded have allowed the beneficiaries to pursue land based courses to enhance career opportunities. The area of benefit is clearly defined; household income is a consideration when making the award. The total grant awards were £14,678 (£26,517 in 2019/20).

#### **Review of activities and future developments**

The statement of financial activities for the year is set out on page 5 of the financial statements. A summary of the financial results and the work of the Charity are set out below.

The Fund has increased in value by £26,021 (£30,746 decrease in 2019/20) over the financial year as a result of incoming resources (from investments) exceeding outgoing resources.

Income consists of interest on investment stock and cash held of £26,510 (£26,508 in 2019/20), and £0 (£0 2019/20) in respect of the annual payment from the Roger Edwards Educational Trust. Expenditure of £16,401 (£29,063 in 2019/20) primarily comprised of grants payable of £14,678 (£26,517 in 2019/20) in line with the Charity's objects. An unrealised investment gain of £15,912 (£28,191 loss in 2019/20) was made in relation to investments held.

The current strategy is to ensure that there are sufficient funds to meet the needs of beneficiaries. This income generation forms the main basis of the following year's grant allocations to ensure continuity and non-degradation of the fund's capital assets and to perpetuate the Charity as a going concern.

#### **Investment powers, policy and performance**

Under the terms of the Trust Deed, the Trustees have general powers of investment, subject to the provisions of the Trustee Act 2000. The Trustees have reviewed their investment strategy and produced an investment and fund strategy for 2019/20 which was approved by Monmouthshire County Council in its capacity as Trust administrator on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Investments are strategically placed in low-risk investments. Investment performance is reviewed periodically in light of prevailing economic changes.

#### **Grant making policy**

Grants are made in pursuance of the Charity's objectives in assisting students in need to attend Usk Agricultural College, or at the discretion of the governing body, any other college, institution or university to pursue courses of study in agricultural subjects.

#### **Changes in fixed assets**

The movements in fixed asset investments during the year are set out in note 7 to the financial statements.

## **Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021**

### **Reserves**

The Fund consists primarily of the sale proceeds of the Former Monmouthshire Farm School by the governing body of the school to Monmouthshire County Council. The Fund are entitled to receive an annual payment from The Roger Edwards Educational Trust (Charity Number 525638) equivalent to two thirds of the annual investment and rental income accrued to the Trust.

The Trust has reviewed its fund strategy and produced an investment and fund strategy for 2020/21 which states that it is the Trust's policy to maintain funds at approximately the current level and utilise the annual income received to fund its charitable expenditure. This was approved by Cabinet on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

### **Governance of the Charity**

Representative Trustees appointed by Monmouthshire County Council have a term of office equivalent to the term of a County Council (five years); the other representative Trustees have a term of office of three years and the co-opted Trustees have a term of office of five years. County Council Trustees are elected to the board of Trustees. Trustees that represent other organisations are internally appointed. The Trustees are listed on page 1.

### **Risk management**

Monmouthshire County Council as appointed administrator of the Trust Fund periodically review the major risks to which the Charity is exposed as part of the Authority's overall risk management processes. The Roger Edwards Educational Trust has historically provided significant income to this trust to be used for the distribution of grants. This income is received after the independent examination of the accounts and therefore this is usually late in the financial year. A risk assessment policy was approved by Cabinet on 5th March 2019.

### **Independent examiners**

The Audit Wales are the appointed independent examiners to the Charity.

### **Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees are required by Charity law to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the net incoming/outgoing resources of the Charity as at the end of the financial year.

The Trustees confirm that suitable accounting policies have been used and applied consistently, and reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made in the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021. The Trustees also confirm that applicable accounting standards have been followed and that the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **By order of the Trustees**

Trustee:

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund  
Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021**

**Report of the independent examiner to the Trustees of  
Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund**

I report on the accounts of Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). You are satisfied that the accounts are not required to be audited by charity law and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act; In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently, I express no opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Adrian Crompton  
Auditor General for Wales  
24 January 2022

24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

**Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund**  
**Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021**

**Statement of financial activities (Sofa) for the year ended 31st March 2021**

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Unrestricted Funds £
<b>Income &amp; Endowments from:</b>			
Investment income	2	26,510	26,508
<b>Total income &amp; Endowments</b>		<b>26,510</b>	<b>26,508</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>			
<b>Charitable expenditure</b>			
Costs of activities in furtherance of the Charity's objects			
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	14,678	26,517
Other expenditure	3 & 4	1,723	2,546
<b>Total Resources expended</b>		<b>16,401</b>	29,063
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	5	15,912	(28,191)
<b>Net Income / (Expenditure)</b>		<b>26,021</b>	(30,746)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>			
Fund balances brought forward 1 April 2020		<b>627,904</b>	658,650
<b>Fund balances carried forward 31 March 2021</b>		<b>653,925</b>	627,904

All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those disclosed above.

**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021**

**Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund**  
**Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021**

	Notes	2021	2020
		Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Investments	7	<b>630,881</b>	614,968
		<b>630,881</b>	614,968
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<b>0</b>	245
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>23,761</b>	16,615
		<b>23,761</b>	16,860
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<b>716</b>	3,924
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>23,045</b>	12,936
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>653,925</b>	627,904
<b>The Funds of the Charity:</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	10	<b>653,925</b>	627,904
<b>Total Charity funds</b>		<b>653,925</b>	627,904

The financial were approved by the Trustees on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee:

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

# **Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund**

## **Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021**

### **2021**

## **1 Principal accounting policies**

### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic (FRS 102) and Charity Act 2011.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

### **Resources expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### **Incoming Resources**

All income received is accounted for on a receivable basis and has been classified under the appropriate categories. The income from the Roger Edwards Educational Trust is an estimate of the income to be received for the year.

### **Grants payable**

Grants payable are accounted for in full as liabilities of the Charity when approved by the Trustees and accepted by the beneficiaries.

### **Management and administration**

Monmouthshire County Council administer the Trust Fund on behalf of the Trustees. Management and administration costs include expenditure on administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, and an appropriate apportionment of support service recharges and overhead apportionments. The basis of the apportionment is a fixed fee agreed with the Trustees of £200 per year.

### **Debtors/ Creditors**

Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

### **Irrecoverable VAT**

Any irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities, or capitalised as part of the cost of the related asset, where appropriate.

### **Recognition of liabilities**

Liabilities are recognised when an obligation arises to transfer economic benefits as a result of past transactions or events.

### **Fund accounting**

General funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity. Investment income and gains are allocated to the appropriate fund.

### **Investments**

Investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Any realised and unrealised gains and losses on revaluation or disposals are combined in the statement of financial activities.

### **Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty**

## Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Trust about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates have been made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Trust's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2020 for which there is a significant risk of adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

### The revaluation of investment property and property funds

Changes in the valuation assumptions used, together with significant changes in rental growth could affect (increase or decrease) the fair value of property-based investments. Indicative net asset statements for property funds are subject to uncertainty at the reporting date and the valuation for pooled property funds and investment property is less reliable than usual. As the investments are held on a long-term strategy basis, the fund does not foresee any long-term negative effect in the generation of future income streams.

### Transition to FRS 102

The opening fund position at the date of transition has not been restated and no subsequent restatement of items has been required in making the transition to FRS 102. The transition date was 1 April 2016.

### Cash flow statement

The Charity has taken exemption from preparing a cash flow under Charities SORP FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1.

## 2 Investment income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest on cash balances	181	87
Interest on Investments	26,329	26,421
	<b>26,510</b>	26,508

## 3 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grants payable	14,678	26,517
Management & administration	1,723	2,546
	<b>16,401</b>	29,063

Grants payable comprise numerous payments to individual students in respect of full time and part-time courses attended. It is not possible to provide further details due to restrictions of confidentiality.

## 4 Governance Costs



**Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund**  
**Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net incoming resources is stated after charging:		
Independent Examiner's remuneration	1,458	1,762
	<b>1,458</b>	<b>1,762</b>

No indemnity insurance for Trustees liability has been purchased by the Charity. Though no specific indemnity insurance has been purchased by the Charity, the Fund is covered by Monmouthshire County Council's fidelity guarantee insurance. Insurance covers financial losses incurred as a result of fraudulent acts conducted by Authority employees but does not cover the Trustees for any wrong decisions that may have been made. Governance costs have decreased during the year as a result of the Public Audit Wales Act and in particular the duty placed on the Wales Audit Office to ensure full cost recovery in its audit fees. The audit fee is included in the management and administration spend as per note 3.

## 5 Gains and losses on revaluation and disposal of investment assets

	Market Value	Market Value	Gain/(Loss)
	2020	2021	
	£	£	£
Charibond	235,745	235,269	(476)
OEIC	159,116	177,442	18,326
COIF	220,107	218,170	(1,937)
Total	614,968	630,881	15,912

## 6 Taxation

The Charity is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments, and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the Charity's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes.

The Charity falls with Monmouthshire County Council regulations for VAT, and therefore any liability is accounted for within Monmouthshire County Council.

**Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund**  
**Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021**

**7 Fixed asset investments**

	Total £
Valuation at 1 April 2020	614,968
Purchase	
Net revaluation gain	15,912
<b>Valuation at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>630,881</b>

Fixed asset investments solely consist of the quoted investments. All investments are stated at their market value at 31st March 2021. The historical cost of the investments at 31st March 2020 was £639,000. All of the Charity's investments are quoted in the UK. The details of these are disclosed in the table below, being Charibond, COIF and OEIC Fund.

Investments with a market value greater than 5% of the total portfolio market value at 31st March 2021 are as follows:

	£	%
COIF	218,170	34,6%
Charibond	235,269	37,3%
OEIC Fund	177,442	28,1%

The percentage shown above is the percentage of the total portfolio market value as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**8 Debtors**

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
HM Revenue and Customs	0	245
	0	245

**9 Creditors**

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Accruals and deferred income	716	3,924
	716	3,924

The amounts owed relate to audit fees and payments to Monmouthshire County Council to administer the trust.

**Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund**  
**Annual report for the year ended 31st March 2021**

**10 Unrestricted Funds**

	Balance 1 April 2020	Incoming resources	Resources Expended	Investment Gain/(Loss)	Balance 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Permanent endowed funds	627,904	26,510	16,401	15,912	653,925

**11 Related party transactions**

No remuneration directly or indirectly out of the funds of the Charity was paid or payable for the year to any Trustees. Payments have been made to Monmouthshire County Council respect of management and administration expenses.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Independent Examination Report – the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund

Examination year: 2020-21

Date issued: December 2021

Document reference: [\[the Publishing team assigns this\]](#)

## **Purpose of this document**

This document is a draft supplied in confidence solely for the purpose of verifying the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in it and to obtain views on the conclusions reached.

## **Handling prior to publication**

This document and the copyright comprised therein is and remains the property of the Auditor General for Wales. It contains information which has been obtained by the Auditor General and the Wales Audit Office under statutory functions solely to discharge statutory functions and has been prepared as the basis for an official document that may be issued or published in due course. It may also contain information the unauthorised disclosure of which may be an offence under section 54 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004. Except as expressly permitted by law, neither the document nor any of its content may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system and/or transmitted in any form or by any means, or disclosed to any person other than the original recipient without the prior written permission of the Wales Audit Office. It must be safeguarded at all times to prevent publication or other improper use of its content. Unauthorised use or disclosure may result in legal proceedings. Any enquiries regarding disclosure or re-use of this document should be sent to the Wales Audit Office at [infoofficer@audit.wales](mailto:infoofficer@audit.wales).

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions.

In the event of receiving a request for information to which this document may be relevant, attention is drawn to the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The section 45 code sets out the practice in the handling of requests that is expected of public authorities, including consultation with relevant third parties. In relation to this document, the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office are relevant third parties. Any enquiries regarding disclosure or re-use of this document should be sent to the Wales Audit Office at [infoofficer@audit.wales](mailto:infoofficer@audit.wales).

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

DRAFT

# Contents

We intend to issue an unqualified examiners' report on your accounts. There are some matters to report to you prior to their approval.

## **Independent Examination Report**

Introduction	4
Impact of COVID-19 on this Year's Examination	4
Proposed Examiners' Report	4
Issues Arising from the Examination	5

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Proposed Examiners' Report	6
---	---

# Independent Examination Report

## Introduction

- 1 The charity's Trustee is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and have considered that this year under section 144(2) of the Act an independent examination is needed of them.
- 2 We are responsible for providing an independent examiners' report on the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund (the Fund) financial statements as at 31 March 2021. An independent examination involves reviewing whether the charity has, in all material respects:
  - Maintained accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; and
  - Prepared accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.
- 3 We are also required to report to you any matter that, in our opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached prior to the accounts being approved by the trustees. Where this is the case our team has already discussed these issues with officers.
- 4 In our professional view, we have complied with the ethical standards that apply to our work; remain independent of yourselves; and our objectivity has not been compromised in any way. There are no relationships between ourselves and yourselves that we believe could undermine our objectivity and independence.

## Impact of COVID-19 on this Year's Examination

- 5 The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on all aspects of society. You are required by law to prepare accounts and it is of considerable testament to the commitment of your accounts team that you have succeeded in doing so this year despite the challenges faced. We are extremely grateful to the professionalism of the team in supporting us to complete our examination in such difficult circumstances.
- 6 The pandemic has unsurprisingly affected our examination. We continue to work remotely which means that we have not had direct access to systems such as the Council's financial ledger and shared drives, and have had to separately request all such information and working papers from Council staff for this examination. However, all information requested has been provided as required.

## Proposed Examiners' Report

- 7 We intend to issue an unqualified examiners' report on this year's accounts. Our proposed report is set out in **Appendix 1**.



## Issues Arising from the Examination

### Uncorrected misstatements

- 8 There are no misstatements identified in the accounts which remain uncorrected.

### Corrected misstatements

- 9 The draft Trustee Report included references to 'material valuation uncertainties' with regard to the valuation of property funds and investment properties held by the Fund, which had been previously reported in the audited 2019-20 accounts.
- 10 Our audit identified that the Fund's valuers no longer identified such uncertainties in its valuations, and as such these references in the Trustee Report were no longer required. These references have therefore been removed from the final accounts.
- 11 Other than the above matter, and some minor amendments relating to presentation or narrative detail, there are no misstatements arising from our examination which we need to bring to your attention.

# Appendix 1

## Proposed Examiners' Report

### Report of the independent examiner to the Trustees of Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund

I report on the accounts of Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 6 to 11.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). You are satisfied that the accounts are not required to be audited by charity law and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act; In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently, I express no opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

#### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Adrian Crompton  
Auditor General for Wales  
24 January 2022

24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

DRAFT



Audit Wales

24 Cathedral Road

Cardiff CF11 9LJ

Tel: 029 2032 0500

Fax: 029 2032 0600

Textphone: 029 2032 0660

E-mail: [info@audit.wales](mailto:info@audit.wales)

Website: [www.audit.wales](http://www.audit.wales)

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.  
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

## SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS

**REPORT:** APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

**AUTHOR:** SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGER - CYP

**MEETING AND DATE  
OF MEETING:** MONMOUTHSHIRE FARM SCHOOL  
ENDOWEMENT TRUST FRIDAY  
21ST JANUARY 2022

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendation to the Proper Officer:-

**Exemptions applying to the report:**

Likely to reveal information relating to a particular individual (Paragraph 12).

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14).

**Factors in favour of disclosure:**

Accountability of the Trustees for the proper disbursement of Trust Funds.

**Prejudice which would result if the information were disclosed:**

May discourage potential applicants (Applications depend on assessment of financial need).

**My view on the public interest test is as follows:**

Factors against disclosure outweigh those in favour.

**Recommended decision on exemption from disclosure:**

Withhold

**Date: 5th January 2022**

**Signed: Sophie Evans – submitted electronically**

**Post: Deputy Finance Manager**

---

I accept the recommendation made above.

Nikki Wellington – Submitted electronically  
Proper Officer

Date: 5th January 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12, 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



By virtue of paragraph(s) 12, 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank