

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Remote Attendance Monday, 16th January, 2023 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor M. Groucutt (Chair)

County Councillors: D. Jones, J. McKenna, P. Murphy

Councillor M. Cross (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council)

Councillor R. Clark (Torfaen County Borough Council)

Mr. P. James (Aberystwyth University)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nikki Wellington

Finance Manager

Gareth Peel

Accounting Technician Trainee

Richard Williams

Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

County Councillor M. Stevens, Councillor C. Andrews and Ms. H. Morgan

1. Professor Desmond Hayes

Penri James informed the Trust that Professor Desmond Hayes had passed away in December 2022. Professor Hayes had been Aberystwyth University's representative serving on the Trust for many years before he retired. During his time as a Trustee he had provided his fellow Trustees and officers with invaluable advice and guidance.

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2022 were confirmed as an accurate record.

4. Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust Fund Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2022 and Independent Examination of Financial Statement Report - Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust

The Finance Manager presented the final accounts for the year end 2022.

We resolved to approve the accounts.

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5. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

6. Verbal update for Trustees regarding progress on recently report fraud

The Trust was provided with an update following the report to the Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust meeting in July 2022 regarding the fraudulent application that had been made to the Trust in recent years.

The Trust was informed that Gwent Police had provided the individual with a caution. The Trust had also received a letter of apology and all monies had been re-paid to the Trust in full in December 2022.

Monmouthshire County Council had reported the individual to the accountancy body and the case was now closed.

7. To consider a report by the Chief Officer for Children and Young People regarding applications received against the Trust Fund for the Academic Year 2022/23

We considered 13 applications received against the Trust Fund, presented on behalf of the Chief Officer for Children and Young People.

The Trust resolved that awards be made to the 13 applicants, as agreed, subject to appropriate receipts and evidence of attendance being received.

8. Next Meeting

Monday 17th July 2023 at 11.00am.

The meeting ended at 2.42 pm.