

Minutes of the Othona Community – Bradwell Centre Committee (BCC)

Open Committee Meeting at Othona Bradwell

Saturday 17th August 2019

2 – 4.15 pm

Open to BCC Members and anyone else who wishes to join

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome to all
3. Introduction to the meeting
4. Brief reports from BCC on our regular business:
 - a. Warden's Report
 - b. Health & Safety and Safeguarding
 - c. Finance update
 - d. Programme Planning for 2020
 - e. Strategic topics: sustainability, communications, Christian spirituality, reconciliation, education, Othona Bradwell as a local resource; resources, including buildings and power.
 - f. Reminder of AGM including voting for new Community Secretary
5. Any concerns or topics we have left out?
6. Open Forum – for contributions from all, about anything relating to Othona – comments and discussion
7. Chair's summary and moving forward together

Present: Roo (Chair, Trustee, Dir of Company, Simon (Health & Safety), Nicholas (Community programme of events), Phil (Trustee, Dir of Company), Tim (Warden), Susanne - (all BCC)

Dave B (BCC Education Sub-group) Kate & Al, Eneco, Geoff & Marge, Paul & Judy, Zoe, Geraldine from Southminster, Richard S, Steffi, Natsumi, Jonney (sustainability), Catharina & Martin (communication at Bradwell)

1. Phil reads from Norman's Letters to Community – 40 years ago & prayer
2. Roo
3. Roo: first 30 minutes BCC business, then contributions from all
4. Brief reports from BCC on our regular business:
 - a. See Tim's Warden's report attached

- b. Simon: No current health & safety concerns, we need to find a common health & safety umbrella (= one book) with OWD

Questions:

Catharina: Do we need to hide cleaning products from children in toilets?

Simon: The ones we use are not very dangerous, but we should still store them away from children (high up) – anyone should help.

Jonney: Do we need a list of all people staying on site?

Tim: Not needed, says fire brigade. But we may need the number of all who are staying?

Roo: Safeguarding – we (= all) have to be aware of e.g. all vulnerable people, disabled, children...we have no reported incidents. Officials are Bradwell Office and Liz Johnson (Trustee)

- c. Finance policies come from our Treasurer Angie. Tim reports slight surplus from April until July (£25,000). Cost of food per head sank a bit. We are grateful to all volunteers helping. We are still trying to reduce our outgoings, e.g. the £2,000 / per month for heating in winter. We have a good number of groups, many of which already booked for next year. It's a good mix of groups from "all backgrounds" – all learning about "work, worship, study & play". There are always some changes and quite a few new members.

Zoe: great range from e.g. Orthodox Church and other religions.

Susanne: We are offering a great Othona welcome with many positive feedbacks.

Al: we need to spread our ideas even more and never forget to always improve.

Kate: we offer a great mix for newcomers and new chances.

- d. Nicholas: We have a new big fold-up leaflet (one big sheet) for 2019/20 up to summer 2020, with e.g. special rates for Easter 2020. It will be online soon.

Rosie resigned from the Programme Committee – many thanks from all for all the work she did!!!!

Nicholas and Jan Marshal are looking for new "seed ideas".

Simon: we should all fill in feedback forms – on paper or maybe online? ... and more links to it.

Paul: we should put and refill more programme leaflets on the

Chapel table at the back – also on all notice boards (some need their glass cleaned) and more prominent places.

Richard: The new leaflets are printed and readily available.

Martin: We should try to produce more inspiring programme texts (“blurbs”) - maybe only for the online programme as the already printed ones cannot be changed.

Kate: We should continue to use online means and especially more email (assisted by membership database - like Debbie did recently) for informing our members.

Tim: we are proactive in publicity – thanks to Debbie!

Susanne: leaflet should be online and contain latest updates.

Catharina: For our recent great Bradwell week we could have updated: “Explore Bradwell secrets and look behind normally closed walls.”

e. No contributions here, see open discussion.

f. AGM reminder: 21st September at a new venue within walking distance from the one we used in previous years (Waterloo.)

Paid up members can VOTE for a new Community Secretary.

Possibly one application so far – who else could take that on?

It is the first time in a number of years our members can vote.

Tim: Currently there is no membership secretary – Claire Gough (our Trustee Chair) is pushing this issue.

The AGM is the Annual General Meeting of the Othona Community Charitable Trust which owns the properties, assets and investments and upholds the charitable aims of Othona.

The structure is: members -> Trust -> Company

All suggestions for the AGM should go to the trustees, not to company.

The Othona Community (Company) is a separate charitable company that runs the operations of the two Centres.

This Open Meeting is a Company Meeting for the Bradwell Centre, for considering any thoughts and concerns about Othona Bradwell.

5. &

6. Open Forum.

The Strategy leaders were introduced:

a. Sustainability (Richard & Jonney)

b. Communication (Martin)

- c. Spirituality (Richard & Rector Steven Poss)
- d. Reconciliation (Tim)
- e. Education – Dave Bull
- f. Othona as a Local resource – Roo + other local people.
- g. Resources (Roo, Susanne, Trev, Jonney, Kevin Knight, John James – architect of Motley Building)

Catharina: The noise level in the dining area is too high. Susanne knows some architectural changes, which could help. Tim will help too.

Al: We need (portable, also for Chapel?) loops for hearing aids. Dave Bull will investigate.

Geoff: There is too much noise from e.g. doors in the Motley Building corridor. Simon will investigate – also about noisy water pump.

Martin: With about 60 people on site the dining room seems to be quite full already. When we build new rooms how can we sit more people? Simon says we need to look at the “geography” of tables and chairs. Tim says the new rooms will mainly increase quality and not quantity.

Roo: The Answer Back Meetings brought up “Fridays for Future” – what do we do about it? Jonney: We do cardboard composting, together with Richard. We have wildflowers in various areas. Seawall has been cut, raking should be done. We increased the amount of veg we grow. Richard: We try a major reduction on gas with bio mass usage and reduce the use of plastic. We might have a week with Graham Burnett from Southend on permaculture. Jonney: some edible plants are grown in his experimental garden in the lower field.

Roo: How can we push that forward? Susanne: Can Othona set examples in those areas? Geoff: Sustainability has been discussed last week with Beverly. Tim: it complements our day to day running.

Catharina: We should propagate that we are on a journey to “Fridays for Future”.

7. Final words:

Send our new programs to OWD.

Tim: Chapel Service – don’t always discuss what to do, but don’t forget we are already offering a great experience of a sort of family.