

## Minutes of MWC Friends Meeting at Knapp Farm, 17 August 2023

Present: Mary Durling, Jasmine Hills; Jared Hills; Jon Hill, Simon Fairlie, Xanthe Parkin, Anson Hartford, James Edgeworth, Janie Prince, Christopher Roper

The main conclusion of the Meeting, which was called at very short notice, circulated to everyone who had signalled potential interest in joining the Committee at the Public Meeting on 27 July at Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall, was that we should call an Inaugural General Meeting of the Association of Friends of Monkton Wyld Court in October 2023.

The purpose of that meeting will be to ratify the draft Rules of the Association and elect officers, Treasurer, Secretary, Chair, Media.

Gill Barron has volunteered to act as Membership Secretary; Jon Hill has already set up a website [www.mwcfriends.org](http://www.mwcfriends.org), which has the potential to attract members and donations, and is happy to manage external communications. We agreed that membership should be based on donations, rather than a fixed annual subscription; Christopher Roper agreed to explore what was involved in opening a bank account for the Association with Nationwide in Bridport and would liaise with Jon and Gill on this. Simon agreed to approach Alice White to see if she would agree to be Chair of the Association. Christopher was willing to support the Association through its formative period in any way he could.

We discussed comments from Charles Bevan, author of the History of Monkton Wyld School and Benefactor of the Community, who raised £12,500 for the installation of the sewage treatment system, and who is very supportive and regards the formation of the Association as a crucial step towards saving Monkton Wyld Court, as we have known it. He suggested that in Paragraph 2 (i) of the Draft Rules, we should define "education in sustainability" rather more narrowly to include specific reference to food and agroecology. In Paragraph. The meeting supported that suggestion. In Paragraph 2(ii) Charles had suggested inserting the words "more conventional" before "structure" in the first line. The sense of the meeting was that what we are trying to achieve is "a more democratic structure" in line with best practice in charitable organisations. Simon agreed to edit the Draft Articles to take these suggestions into account.

We agreed that it was hard to approach either the current Board of Trustees or the Charity Commission until the Association is formally constituted as a body with a Committee and elected officers. We hope this will be possible after the Inaugural General Meeting. Simon and Jasmine are both in formal/legal dispute with the Trustees, and while those present at this meeting might support any steps they took, the Association could not take any formal position until the General Meeting. We would hope to discuss it then.

Xanthe Parkin, who is currently running the Office at MWC, was happy to take back to the Trustees, the embryo Association's willingness to enter into substantive discussions that could lead to a resolution of present difficulties. James Edgeworth, who was a long-term member of the Community, said he thought that once peace had been restored to

Monkton Wyld Court, the Association could play a positive role in many ways, both in finding Trustees, who were in tune with the aspirations of the Community, but also in raising funds to, for example provide bursaries to improve access to course, or to fund repairs and improvements to the fabric and infrastructure.