**Jurassic Coast Trust Board Meeting**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Jurassic Coast Trust Board held on Friday 20th October 2023 at Brooklands Farm, Foreton, Dorset and Via Zoom for those not able to attend in person.

**Present:**
D Ryall (Chair), M Bermingham (online), R Bridgeman, F Costain (online), J Larwood (online), Cllr M Roberts, S Philbrick (Treasurer), J Wokersien (online).

**Officers in attendance:**L Culkin (Chief Executive, JCT), K Hind (Environmental Partnerships Officer, Devon County Council), C Reedman (Head of Palaeontology, JCT), S Scriven (Principal Officer, JCT),

**Apologies:**J Pope

J Weld

D Brunsden

1. **Welcome and Declarations of Interest**DR introduced the team and order of the meetings, which would be the AGM followed by the Board Meeting.

Non declared.

1. **Minutes of previous Board meeting – 7th October 2022**

Proposed by DR and JW.

1. **Chair’s Report**

DR stated that his report/presentation can be made available to anyone in the room that requests it.

DR began his report with a presentation: The Jurassic Coast Trust: As a charity, is it still a worthy cause?

Short answer, based on criteria, is yes.

1. Are we making a difference? JCT is a small charity without land or regulatory role but can and does influence others.

DR talked through the Partnership Plan.

DR was concerned about partners missing meetings but believes they have bought into JCT’s mission.

DR believes there is good joined up thinking and desire amongst the partners.

1. Making a difference through the Jurassic Coast Collection: the positive points about the collection and the communities around it.

DR emphasised the research that would be available on the collection for the academic community.

John Ellerman Round 2 of funding: There is lots of good support. The quality of work produced has led to funding continuation.

DR talked about the scope of the new facility for the collection and the feasibility study. The consultation phase has been challenging but promising.

1. Responding to Planning Applications.

DR emphasised SS’s work as a critical influencing role.

1. Public engagement. DR believes this is going well and needs to strike a balance between digital and real-life engagement. DR talked through SS’s media engagement and how positive it was through the influence the JCT was having.
2. Challenges: Damaging developments, Climate impacts, Detractors.

DR emphasised the importance of sea level rises in the climate impact section and how it would affect the Jurassic Coast.

DR touched on negativity from certain individuals in the community and how sad that is.

DR talked about financial challenges.

1. Responding to Challenges, Developing Management Plans,

Developing a Protected Site Strategy. DR talked about Section 172 - the process of informing UNESCO of threats to sites on the Dorset and Devon WHS.

1. Funding. There is a strategy in place for earning new revenue through JCT Trading. DR would like to see continual growth.
2. Summary. The JCT is still a worthy cause. The team is rising to challenges and DR is cautiously optimistic and thanks the team and patrons.

Comments: MR is concerned that he believes DR mentioned in his report that planners and other parties are not listening, of which, as a councillor, he is one.

DRapologises and states that perhaps he has misrepresented that section of his report/presentation. MB discussed a recent meeting regarding a proposed section172 meeting. It is agreed that this discussion will be continued in the Board Meeting following the AGM. MB suggests engagement with the Environment Agency should be wider. It is agreed this will also be discussed later at the Board Meeting.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

**For information**

SP advised Trustees:

* That her narrative is limited due to the lack of essential information supplied by Milstead Langdon (JCT Accountants) in time for the AGM.
* SP reminded Trustees of their responsibilities and accountability.
* SP thanked Helen Akerman and LC for their work throughout the year and advised trustees there is now a new bookkeeping company (just appointed) called Ookkee Ltd; this is positive and they will produce insightful reports for the Trust.
* The annual turnover was circa £335k this financial year, compared to £262k in the last financial year and £311k the year before that.
* The draft accounts report a deficit of £8.6k for the year ending March 2023.
* The revenue increase is largely due to a recharge of a share of costs and sale of stock to the new trading subsidiary; the recharge is then accounted for as income.
* The largest spend, as in all years, has been on JCT staff.
* SP stated that the JCT reserves are in line with the Reserves policy, which has in excess of three months' worth of costs and there is no issue with bad debts.
* SP talked through concerns about trading losses but said it was too early to determine longer term viability. SP explained how JCT Trading works with JCT as a charity and that it would take two to three years to reap benefits. The principal reason for loss is a combination of initial financing from the parent charity, eight months rather than a full year of trading and donation income totalling £26k needing to be received by the charity, unforeseen staff changes and general impact from cost of living on trading activity.

JL: Question: How does the DMO status/income stream affect the JCT trading? SP: There is expected growth for the DMO which will come from the new businesses signed up by Ignyte (marketing agency).

SP has been encouraged by Ignyte who have been helpful in giving advice on website functionality. The DMO is the future income stream for JCT Trading that will ultimately benefit the charity.

Vote to approve the draft accounts. MR proposes approval for draft seconded by SH.

Mark Bermingham expressed his support for the income raising strategy.

DR thanked SP.

1. **Retirement and Appointment of Officers**

**To Appoint roles**

Lucy C: emailed trustees prior to the meeting to request three Trustees stand down to be later reappointed, as per JCT articles.

Requested Trustees to propose appointment and ratification of FC and RB.

Ratification of the new trustee appointment took place, DR proposed and JW seconded.

1. **Appointment of Accountants**

**To Appoint Accountants**

SP recommended the reappointment of Milstead Langdon. She will discuss with ML the unacceptable timing issues that have occurred this year, noting that the quality of their advice is good.

1. **AOB**

None raised.

**The Meeting concluded at 10.45am.**

**…………………………….
Signed Chairman**

**Charity No. 1101134**