

## **Minutes of Directors Meeting 24/25TH June 2016**

Present: T. Roberts (Chair) (TR), P.Finegan (PF), J.Davey (JDA).J.Hill (JH), R. Gault (Principal) (RG), C Bingham (CB), Hiroko Apthorp (HA).  
Apologies: Lesley Abadi (LA)

### **1) Minutes of the last meeting**

These were approved Actions included at the end of full minutes

### **2) BAC**

It was reported that the cost of BAC registration is £2,200 which is paid every 4 years together with an annual fee of £1300. Chisholme has welcomed 8 people from outside the EEC this year - very small numbers which we might not have admitted if Chisholme were not BAC registered. It was thought that a person who wishes to take part in a 6 month course would need to state that they were to be a student at an accredited (e.g. by BAC) educational body. In addition, it was pointed out that American universities give credits for attendance at certain courses and it was thus felt that the Institute needs to be accredited to offer such opportunities/courses.

### **3) Principals report**

- 1 It was recommended that the Intuitive drawing course be offered again.
- 2 Also that the Service and Freedom course be offered to all whether the individual had completed a "course" or not.
- 3 It was thought that the function of the Development office should be "re-thought" and the functions delegated to more than one person - those persons need not be necessarily resident at Chisholme.
- 4 It was confirmed that the 40 day retreat course will not be happening this winter. Monthly DU weekends are to continue. Sunday courses are to continue with people being encouraged to stay on Saturday night. The second 6 month course to be a priority for development meetings.

### **4) Finance**

The seriousness of the current situation was highlighted in JDR's financial report. The need for ongoing monthly monitoring was re-stated.

A system that ensures that money which is spent equals money received

was put forward and agreed to. It was suggested that the proposed system would perhaps involve the development of a system of departmental budgets and would require a system of authorisation/monitoring of spending by a single focus on an ongoing basis.

The need to inform the wider circle of alumni and friends of the financial situation was agreed to, and that this could be included in the invitation to the winter weeks.

## **5) Winter 2016**

A report from Alan Scott detailed ideas for future planning pointing out that Chisholme has currently enough wood available for 2 years supply. It was agreed that we purchase a winch for £3K - also to seek grants to aid the purchase and also seek grants for a "fuelwood processor."

The need for structural change was put forward and the suggestion of the formation of an over reaching body.

For Christmas it was suggested that there be a general invitation.

### *Courses:*

It was suggested and agreed to that the focus of courses during the winter be "A Single Vision: the Spirit of the Starting Place." The winter to be a space for enquiry. All who come to be not only students but also staff/ workers.

A week every month to be devoted to conversation around this heading - this to be open to all whether they had taken part in "courses" or not.

The first weekend to be focused on "how?"

Suggested that the first of the weeks be one for open conversation around the central theme. Weeks in the following months to include Fusus readings. Perhaps study in the morning, conversation in the afternoon. Two specific courses were also suggested for the winter:-

"Writing from Unity" and "Speaking from Unity."

Also it was suggested that individuals be asked to be at Chisholme for a period.

There would also be weeks of practical projects..

The need for structural organisational change would be part of the winter agenda/conversation and this could be stated in the invitation.

The idea of "News from the Meadhall" could be used to inform those who could not attend..

It was also suggested that at the end of the weeks there be a plenary session.

*Staffing:*

Reported that a prospective book - keeper would like to live at Chisholme and it was agreed that she be offered the Steading Cottage. A suggestion has been made that the current Facebook page becomes the Chisholme Institute page . This page would cover all courses and other elements on offer. There would be a new page covering the garden.

**6) Miscellaneous**

It was suggested that as part of the five year plan, the garden produces sufficient to sell so that the revenue pays for that food which we need to buy - this figure to include labour cost. In order to achieve this we would require further protected growing.

*New Directors:*

Three possible new directors were discussed and it was agreed that they be contacted.

*Young peoples meeting:*

A report on the weekend meeting attended by young people prepared by Eliza Cass was circulated and the importance of this meeting was agreed on by all directors. It was agreed it should be ensured that all need to be included in all relevant communications and invitations.

**7) The future for Chisholme**

Each member of the board was asked for their vision of the future for Chisholme

The date of the next meeting : 22nd Oct 2016