

The Landscape Trust; Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Dear Member,

Enclosed you will find all the appropriate documents for the AGM. These have been sent as required by the constitution. The managing committee examined the option of using email but, given the varying familiarity of members with this (and the fact that a significant number of members do not have or wish the Trust to have their email addresses) it was decided that they would have to be mailed. Likewise, referral to the website (or secretary) for documents was not considered appropriate since notice of this business was not available at the time of sending the original agenda.

This prompts a reminder that the new General Data Protection Regulations come into effect on 25th May. This requires consent to receive email communications in particular and the response to the request for this at renewal time was poor. In future any emails from the trust will include an option to decline any further contact. The past agreement whereby the Trust advised the AONB of new members details (as part of the new membership process) for the issue of their Newsletter will cease. It has been customary for the AONB newsletter to be sent to Trust members but this is no longer possible. Members can make contact with the office and ask for it to be sent.

Included is:

An updated Agenda, including proposals for resolutions for consideration at the meeting (these at least should be legible even if the standard of the copies of originals is not very good), with background papers as submitted by the proposers and colleagues and personal statements of the six candidates for the five trustee vacancies. This is presented as a single document. Where submissions have been in word format, I have edited text sizes etc. for consistency and where presented as PDFs have converted them where possible but it was not in every case. I think it is all legible- see comment above.

All the formalities have been completed under the terms of the constitution, so actual nomination forms and proposed resolutions and trustee proposal forms are not reproduced and circulated in the interests of economy but will be available for inspection at the meeting if anyone wishes to confirm that they conform.

Members will be given a card on arrival, after confirming the validity of their membership with the membership secretary, and a show of these will be used to vote on proposals and for officer appointments which are uncontested. These cards will then be exchanged for a voting form for the contested trustee positions which will be completed during the interval, counted and the results announced towards the end of the meeting. Each member can vote for up to 5 of the 6 candidates using numbers 1-5 for their preferences in rank order (i.e. 1 for first choice, 2 for second etc.). The managing committee (trustees) has included comments in boxes in respect of each proposal, although the chairman's statement will address the issues verbally on the night of the AGM.

The Landscape Trust; Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**Agenda for Annual General Meeting 2018 to be held on Friday 8th June 2018
at 7.30p.m. at the Heron Theatre, Beetham**



1. **Apologies for Absence:**
2. **Minutes of AGM 1st June 2017**
3. **Matters Arising** **5 minutes**
4. **Chairman's report** **25 minutes**
5. **Treasurer's report**
Adoption of accounts, as approved by the trustees at the meeting in May **10 minutes**
Recommendation for membership fee rate – no change proposed (Subject to costs which may arise from some proposed resolutions relating to member consultation).
6. **Secretary's report** **5 minutes**
7. **Election of Officers:** **5 minutes**
The following officers are willing to serve for the next year with no alternative nominations:
Chairman: Fiona Allen
Treasurer: Ray Anslow
Secretary: Michael Warren
Vice-chairman Colin Peacock (Elected by the trustees)
8. **Proposed resolutions: (see accompanying documents below for details of background etc. – proposals only presented in the agenda. The trustees are satisfied that all proposals and documents fulfil the requirements specified in the constitution.) The proposer in each case will be offered up to three minutes to enlarge on the comments and proposals and then 5 minutes will be opened to questions from members (including co-proposers) before the vote is taken.**
 - (i) In accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance in its governance code, trustees must consult with members should significant changes to the Landscape Trust's services or policies arise for consideration and no significant changes shall be actioned without such consultation having taken place. (Proposed Steve Benner et.al.)
 - (ii) All Decisions must be taken within meetings and must state:
 - i. The exact wording of any proposal and who proposed it
 - ii. A summary of the discussion on each item of business
 - iii. Information used to make decisions
 - iv. Details of the decision i.e. who voted and how and the action required.
(Proposed Sheila May et.al.)
 - (iii) That a minute secretary be appointed immediately (Fee to be paid if a volunteer cannot be found). (Proposed Sheila May et.al.)

- (iv) Opportunities to serve the Trust, both voluntary and paid, shall be advertised to all members. (Proposed Sheila May et.al.)

9. Election of trustees;

Three trustee positions fall vacant this year under the three year term rule. They are: Gary Marsh (Chairman Reserves subcommittee, Adrian Walker, Peter Stevens). Two are willing to serve a further term, (Gary Marsh, Peter Stevens). Additionally, two trustees have recently resigned (Andrew Greenwood, Brenda Penn), hence there are three vacancies and two current members seeking re-election. It is proposed to write a note of thanks to those trustees who have left the Trust's service. Seconded nominations have been received for six potential trustees (including the two current members of the committee), so there will be an election to select the five needed from: Steve Benner, Roger Cartwright, Gary Marsh, Sheila May, Bob Pickup, Peter Stevens. The Honorary Solicitor position remains vacant.

Note on election of Officers and Committee Members: The Managing Committee currently consists of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and six other elected Committee Members (one of whom will be Vice Chairman). All of these are Trustees. Invited members to the Committee Meetings are the Chairman of the Events Committee; Membership Secretary; Volunteer Reserves Officer; Honorary Solicitor, Editor of Keer to Kent and the manager of the AONB unit where these are not already elected Committee Members. The President is an ex-officio member of the committee. Officers are re-elected annually; Trustee Committee Members and Honorary Solicitor serve a three-year term but can be re-elected.

Break for refreshments

Presentation on Walking in Arnside and Silverdale by Peter Standing

10. Announcement and consideration of election results.

11. Reappointment of Independent Examiner

5 minutes

12. Any Other Business (none notified)

13. Date and Time of Next Annual General Meeting: To be determined. (Secretary's note; apologies for wrong date on original agenda). The committee is considering moving the AGM date (the constitution allows up to 18 months between AGMs). The cost of posting the notice of the AGM is covered by its inclusion in the spring edition of Keer to Kent but the considerable cost of sending all members any other documents such as this year, which has not previously been necessary during the current secretary's incumbency, could be covered if the AGM were the requisite time interval after the circulation of the second edition of the year. Additional postage costs from inclusion would be much lower than a separate mailing.

14. Closing comments and formal closure of the meeting

Copies of the Constitution, Minutes and Officers' reports and any other AGM documents can be obtained (as they become available) in advance, if required, from the secretary, Mike Warren at the AONB office address or from: secretary@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk or be seen and downloaded from:

<http://www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk/get-involved/landscape-trust/officers-management-committee>

Other contacts: General enquiries: landscapetrust@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk

Treasurer: treasurer@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk; membership@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk

Proposer Steve Benner and others as specified by the constitution.

Please note that this item is not concerned with the merits or otherwise of the new version of “Keer to Kent” or its current editor. We are questioning only the rationale behind the changes and the apparent lack of transparency and accountability in the methods by which they were effected.

“Keer to Kent” has been a real strength of the Trust since its inception and is highly regarded both within and beyond the Trust. We are not aware of complaints or criticisms of its form or content, or of the performance by the former editor. Why, then, were changes considered necessary and why did those changes necessitate the introduction of an oversight group to direct and approve content? The changes that have been made are acknowledged by the trustees as being significant, both in regard to content and the role of the editor.

The Charity Commission's Governance Code states *"The Board (our trustees) makes sure it speaks to stakeholders (our members) about significant changes to the charity's services or policies"*.

“Keer to Kent” is the only service provided by the Trust which is enjoyed by every member. As far as we are aware, the trustees did not ‘speak’ to the membership at all about these changes, despite them being significant ones.

1. We ask this failure on the part of the trustees be remedied by a full explanation at the AGM as to the rationale and strategy behind the change in the role of editor and the decision for all “Keer to Kent” content to be subject to committee approval, despite there having been no cause for complaint.

Furthermore, the Governance code also states: *"In charities where trustees are appointed by an organisational membership wider than the trustees, the board makes sure that the charity looks for, values and takes into account members' views on key issues."*

“Keer to Kent” is a universal member benefit therefore anything pertaining to it is a key issue. Changes decided upon by the trustees alone were actioned without members’ views being taken into account or valued. We understand that there was no discussion with the then editor. The process by which decisions were reached appears opaque and without any apparent record.

2. We ask for an explanation and justification at the AGM for this failure to consult with the membership or engage in discussion with the editor. We further ask for an explanation as to why it was necessary for the trustees seemingly to hold their discussions in secret.

3. Following the explanations requested at 1 and 2 above and ensuing comment from members attending, we ask that the following proposal be put to the vote.

'In accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance in its Governance Code, trustees must consult with members should significant changes to the Landscape Trust's services or policies arise for consideration, and no significant changes shall be actioned without such consultation having taken place.'

The management committee (trustees) recommends that this proposal be rejected. The trustees are elected to run the charity on behalf of the members and did not feel the proposed changes were of such moment (despite the assertions above) that direct consultation was appropriate. There is no intention that Keer to Kent be subject to committee approval – simply that (in the interests of the editor as well as the trust) a system be developed to ensure editorial support which gives the trustees confidence that their responsibilities are met. Discussions were held in closed session, as is good practice, when they related to individuals to ensure sensitive information was released to the individuals concerned first. The chairman's report will enlarge on these issues.

Minute taking and the recording of decisions.

We are concerned that minutes are not being kept of discussions and significant decisions.

DO MINUTES EXIST for the following significant decisions a, b, c, communicated to the Editor of Keer to Kent in July 2017 accompanied by a statement: *"This is not a discussion paper as these decisions have already been made by the Committee"*

- a. "change the content of Keer to Kent to enable it to be used as a platform to inform the membership of events past and future and to report to the membership with regard to matters which affect the Trust.
- b. "implement the establishment of an editorial panel" to "agree and approve the content of every issue" and to report its decisions "to the Trust Management Committee to be ratified by them prior to publication".
- c. "The Editor's decision is NOT final. Decisions will be subject to the control of the Editorial Panel and the Communication sub-Committee."

Upon receiving an email which included these previously unknown decisions, the Editor tried to open a discussion but received only an answer basically reinforcing them. Being denied the right to question and considering the degree of control unworkable, she said she felt she had no option but to resign. **However she volunteered to continue until a substitute was found - an offer not acknowledged, nor taken up,**

Minutes for August 2017 meeting state merely that the Keer to Kent report had been received. **There was no comment re the proposed changes or the probability of the Editor resigning.** However according to the Agenda there was a Part 3 closed session of the meeting for trustees only to discuss Keer to Kent. The Chair later emailed to the Editor stating: "As you generously and honourably offered to see the next issue of Keer to Kent through to publication in the autumn we would be very grateful if you would do that, with your resignation therefore being effective from the 31st October 2017. **DO MINUTES EXIST** for any of these significant issues? Why is nothing included in the minutes of the meeting which misleadingly states that the meeting closed at 9.00pm. The secret session finished much later but for future reference never happened!

DO MINUTES EXIST of significant decisions taken subsequently regarding Keer to Kent? These included: not to advertise for a volunteer Editor; to pay an Editor a fee; the proposal to invite a previously known person to be the Editor; authorisation to the Treasurer (RA) to conduct negotiations. There was no meeting scheduled at which these matters could have been discussed. If the decisions were reached by email this contravenes guidelines that emails should not be used for important matters since they inhibit interaction and understanding, and it is easy to gain consensus.

November 2017 meeting minutes state: - "RA explained the negotiations which had been conducted with Ruth Ainsworth, prospective Editor of Keer to Kent, and presented a paper giving the details of the costs and contractual matters which were agreed by the trustees nem. con. (Proposed FA seconded CP) FA will notify Ruth Ainsworth of the decision." On such important matters there should have been more information given so that future trustees and others could understand the justification and reasoning behind the decisions. This was the ring fencing of membership fees for all time to come. There will never be another volunteer editor!

Charity Commission guidelines state that minutes should record exactly what was agreed, particularly for important or controversial decisions. Are the trustees making decisions but failing to minute them, thus contravening the Governance Code? The Charity Commission Governance code advocates transparency .

On behalf of members who have emailed or stated concern, those signing below:

A. REQUEST THAT THE TRUST SECRETARY STATE IF MINUTES EXIST IN THE THREE CASES INDICATED. IF NOT, WHY NOT? IF SO, TO PLEASE MAKE THEM AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

The guidelines also suggest "the minutes of any meeting should be taken by someone not directly involved in the meeting rather than one of the trustees themselves. This is because it is difficult to take adequate notes and actively participate at the same time." Our Secretary is an active trustee and expecting him to take part in discussions at the same time as adequately recording minutes cannot be prudent governance.

P2 of Minute Taking and Recording of Decisions

B. REQUEST THAT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS BE PUT TO THE VOTE:

1. All decisions must be taken within meetings and minutes must state:

- a. the exact wording of any resolution and who proposed it
- b. a summary of the discussion on each item of business
- c. information used to make decisions
- d. details of the decision, ie who voted and how and the action required,

The above is in accordance with guidelines. These ensure that future trustees and members will be aware of the basis upon which decisions were made and that those making them are accountable.

2. That a minute secretary be appointed immediately:

Fee paid if a volunteer cannot be found - in order to free the Trust Secretary to concentrate on taking part as a trustee in meeting discussions

ACCORDING TO CHARITY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members who have put forward proposed resolutions for AOB at an AGM are entitled to draft and have circulated an explanation of their resolution'

The foregoing is our explanation and we would like this circulated to members together with the notification of propositions for AOB.

- 1. Name: SHEILA RUPRY Signature: Sheila Rupry
- 2. Name: Peter An Jackson Signature: Peter An Jackson
- 3. Name: LESLEY EOKINS Signature: Lesley Eokins
- 4. Name: GILLIAN SMITH Signature: Gillian Smith
- 5. Name: Carol P. THORP Signature: Carol P. Thorp

Dated: 5 April 2018

The managing committee (trustees) recommends that the membership rejects these proposals. It is not necessary to detail discussions in depth provided outcomes and actions are agreed. Voting does not need to be recorded other than proposers etc. and the outcome.

The managing committee is entirely happy with the record keeping and does not think a minute secretary is essential. (The secretary excluded himself from this judgement).

These matters will be covered by the chairman's report.

RECEIVED

13 APR 2018

Charity Commission recommendations regarding an AGM state:

'members who have put forward proposed resolutions are entitled to draft and have circulated with the notice of the meeting an explanation of their resolution'.

We would therefore like the following circulated to the membership together with the necessary revised notice of meeting.

As we now have an editor for Keer to Kent paid at an additional cost to the Trust we request answers to the following at the AGM:

1. The existing editor had offered to continue in post until a substitute was found to remove any break in publication. With no time pressure therefore what effort was made to find another voluntary editor especially as a result of changes made to the editorial role, to Keer to Kent content and the official support given, the editorial role will be less demanding and less time consuming?

2. What alternatives were explored prior to the seemingly rushed decision to employ a paid editor?

3. It would have been respectful to advertise this post to the membership. Amongst our 1100+ members there could be several able and willing to take on this role as a paid job, or possibly even voluntarily. What was the justification for not doing so?

Following an opportunity for those attending to comment/ask subsidiary questions, please put the following to the vote:

'Opportunities to serve the Landscape Trust, both voluntary and paid, shall be advertised to all members'.

Signed 27th day of March 2018

1. name PETER DELANEY signature Peter Delaney

2. name LISA WHISTLECROFT signature Lisa Whistlecroft

wife of Steve Benner, family membership
(nominated for Trustee)

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Trust

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Details 2/4/2016 11

Name P 2 Jobs pdf.pdf

Size 51 KB

Modified Pacey, Phil and Gill

P2 of the document commencing:

Charity Commission recommendations regarding an AGM state:

and concluding with the proposal:

"Opportunities to serve the Landscape Trust, both voluntary and paid, shall be advertised to all members'.

3. name PHILIP PACEY signature *Phil Pacey*

4. name ANN BOND signature *Ann Bond*

5. name SHEILA MAY signature *Sheila May*

The managing committee (trustees) does not accept these comments. It was recognised that having paid for editorship over the last period (albeit acknowledging that the work done was beyond that covered by the remuneration) a precedent had been set and, although a volunteer editor could emerge, this was unlikely given the commitment and there are also benefits in a quasi-contractual way in making a payment. Trust requirements are advertised in the newsletter. The managing committee recommends the rejection of this proposal. The matter will be covered in the chairman's report.

Steve Benner - Personal Statement

I first discovered the Silverdale and Arnside area in 1973, whilst undertaking a degree in Environmental Sciences at Lancaster University. On graduation, my partner, Lisa Whistlecroft, and I both decided that we rather liked this part of the world and so stayed in the area. We lived for a short time in Silverdale before moving to the Lune Valley and taking up full time posts at Lancaster University. We joined the Landscape Trust shortly before buying our current home in Carr Bank in 2016.

I retired from my role as Manager of Information Technology for Lancaster Environment Centre at the beginning of 2015. In that role, I developed the department's IT systems, policies and infrastructure, managed a team of five IT and computing support staff, and coordinated our operations with the wider IT operations of the University's Information System Services.

In addition to my day-to-day work job, I also held an additional voluntary role of University Quaker Chaplain for a total of 13 years, during which time I was also a member of the University's Chaplaincy Centre Management Committee and a named Trustee to the Chaplaincy Centre. My work on that committee included contributing to a complete overhaul of the Management Committee's constitution. This and other work within the Society of Friends (Quakers) generally (not least serving for a time as Treasurer to Bailrigg Meeting) brought me closely into contact with the requirements of Charity Law and gave me some insight into the workings of the Charities Commission. Also during most of my 38 years at the University, I held lay officer roles within various of the campus trades unions, frequently serving as a negotiator and case worker within those unions. I am therefore no stranger to committee work, to operating within policies, formulating procedures, participating in meetings of all kinds, as well as to finding ways through complex and delicate negotiations.

On the personal side, I have always had a keen interest in the natural world — I inherited my father's love of both mountains and photography (often in combination) and have expanded this over the years into a further interest in soundscape recording, especially of wild places; I have been a bird-watcher since my mid teens but have frequently wandered off into other branches of natural history; my latest obsession is with moths. I have a passionate belief in appropriate stewardship of the environment, not only for the enjoyment of current generations but also for the benefit of future ones.

Roger Cartwright – Personal Statement

Conservation interest: I became interested in natural history as a child and have been able to follow this interest throughout my career. Firstly, after practical experience, that I have written about in my book "Wind on the Hills" based on diaries describing my early life, training as a forester in Scotland and in Africa. Then on returning to England, working as an assistant manager for Tilhill Forestry in South West England before attending the School of Architecture and Landscape, Cheltenham to qualify as a landscape architect. During this period I also had a part time job as Conservation Corps Organiser for the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation. I then went on to work on planning, landscape design and conservation in local government for 25 years. Since taking early retirement from local government in 1991, I have worked locally in private practice as a landscape architect and woodland manager and have maintained my interest in practical hands on work in the woodland that I own with my wife at Hale Moss, combining this with the provision of a voluntary conservation grazing service with Fell ponies and I am still learning.

The Landscape Trust has evolved into a vital part of the AONB and with Brexit and the changes that are occurring in the countryside and planning, I feel that it's going to become even more necessary for the Trust to provide inspiration and help with the conservation of the landscape in this area. **I retired from private practice as a landscape architect and woodland advisor at the end of March 2018** and feel that I am now free to devote more time to helping the Landscape Trust deal effectively with the new issues that are emerging and am therefore offering to become a Trustee. I resigned from the original LT committee shortly after I first started working in private practice in 1991.

Summary of Work Experience: I returned from Nyasaland (Malawi) in 1961 and worked for a private Forestry Company in South West England, this combined with my previous forestry experience convinced me of the need

to learn about landscape design and I enrolled as a student at the School of Architecture and Landscape at Cheltenham. After training as a landscape architect 1962 - 1965, I worked for a short period for **Cumbernauld New Town** in Scotland and then in 1967 moved to **Lancashire County Council**, to work mainly on landscape conservation and recreation policies for the Forest of Bowland AONB. The work eventually included the design of Beacon Fell Country Park and other schemes in the county, such as the landscape treatment of roads, quarries, the reclamation of coal waste heaps and ideas for the restoration of Glasson Dock and the recreational use of the Lancaster Canal. I was made a member of the planning team for the Morecambe Bay Barrage and in 1970 took many of the ideas from this to my next job, which was with **Northumberland County Council**. It included the planning and landscape treatment of the future Kielder Water and the surrounding Forest. I also worked on the design and development of several country parks, including Bolam Lake and after this experience and a visit to see the Chillingham Castle herd of wild white cattle - I became interested in managing woodland pasture and more aware of the need for a conservation grazing service for country parks and wildlife conservation areas. In 1974 I moved to work with the new Cumbria **County Council**, to do similar work and for my family to return to live in the wooded countryside that we all loved, on the shores of Morecambe Bay. When the changes, introduced by the government from about 1980, began to seriously adversely affect our work with Cumbria County Council, where I was Head of the Environment Section in the Planning Department, I decided to take the opportunity for Early Retirement. **Started in private practice as a landscape architect and woodland advisor in 1991** - the work included:

- Woodlands Adviser for a large woodland estate and tenant farms around Elterwater and at Windermere and for a number of small estates in North Lancashire.
- Environmental conservation work on a large number of small estates and farms in the Lake District, Cumbria and Lancashire, (particularly in the Arnside Silverdale AONB).
- TPO work and tree surveys, including work for the Lake District National Park, Cumbria and Lancashire Wildlife Trusts and for local architects and developers.

Gary J Marsh – Personal Statement

Since moving to Warton in 2010 I have been a regular member of the group of volunteers working to improve the environment within the AONB coordinated by Tony Riden of the AONB Team. I have also, jointly with Colin Peacock, undertaken the regular monitoring of butterflies in Warton Crag Local Nature Reserve. On Colin's invitation I offered to become a Trustee of the Landscape Trust in 2012 and was elected Trustee at the AGM in that year.

Since then I have focused my efforts on the Trust's reserves becoming Chairman of the Reserves Group when it was formed towards the end of 2012. The Reserves Group comprises local experts on the management of nature reserves and on wildlife in the area and advises the Management Committee of the Trust on its strategy for our nature reserves. It also provides practical advice to Bob Pickup who is responsible for the detailed work programme needed to manage the reserves appropriately. I regularly attend our Thursday morning volunteer sessions and work closely with Bob in managing these sessions.

As Chairman of the Reserves Group I have also been responsible for obtaining our grants for managing the woodland at Teddy Heights from the Forestry Commission and for our participation in Natural England's higher level stewardship scheme for Coldwell Parrock and Coldwell Meadow. This has resulted in the Trust benefiting from grants amounting to thousands of pounds for the management of our reserves over the last few years.

The Reserves Group has also noted the critical importance of monitoring outcomes on our reserves of the management work being undertaken. Consequently I have set up a regular survey of the range of flowers and

grasses on the new reserve at Coldwell Meadow which is led by Ann Kitchen and a new butterfly transect for that reserve has also been developed. More detailed plans for monitoring flowers at the other reserves are being developed in addition to the ongoing work monitoring birds and butterflies which is already in place.

Natural history, wildlife and outdoor pursuits have always been a significant part of my life but this has been combined with raising four children, active participation in local churches and pursuing a career as an economist, firstly in banking with the Halifax and then as an economic consultant working largely with Regional Development Agencies. I latterly taught economics at Huddersfield and Bradford Universities being appointed Visiting Professor at both those institutions. I was educated at Bury Grammar School (10 O-levels, 4 A-levels), Worcester College, Oxford University (1st Class Honours PPE), Warwick University (Masters Degree in Economics) and Nuffield College, Oxford University (research in the economics of resource depletion).

I believe the experience I have gained in chairing the Reserves Group, liaising with bodies such as the Forestry Commission, taking part in the practical work in managing reserves and in developing on-going strategies for our reserves will be of great use to the Trust on an ongoing basis if I am re-elected Trustee.

Sheila May - Personal Statement

Members know me as the Editor of Keer to Kent, of which during 8 years I produced 24 issues. With everyone, including the Chair and Secretary of the Management Committee, making comments such as 'the best yet', I expected to continue into the foreseeable future. Not so!

As can be noted from the 'Minute taking and the recording of decisions' proposal for the AGM (elsewhere in this pack) there are no minutes of the decision making or of the decisions emailed to me in July last year, even though the email stated "This is not a discussion paper as these decisions have already been made by the Committee". I was therefore completely unprepared to be told that I would no longer have the freedom to develop and produce K2K as I had done for 24 issues, and of which there had been no complaints. Final decisions were to be made by committee, not the Editor.

Upon trying to get some clarification, I received a further email, basically the same, but stating also "it may of course be necessary to develop a new format for Keer to Kent." With so much uncertainty, unable to question or discuss, being asked to reply agreeing within 2 weeks, I felt I had no choice but resign. I said I would complete November issue and also offered to continue until another volunteer Editor could be found; an offer not taken up nor acknowledged! Shortly thereafter negotiations were opened with the current Editor, who is paid to produce K2K.

Eight years of producing Keer to Kent has taught me much about our AONB, and I continue to learn by other means. Since my proposers thought I still had much to offer to the Trust, it was suggested that I stand for election as a Trustee. If elected, I will advocate more consultation and a greater consideration of Landscape Trust members' wishes. I will encourage the running of a greater variety of events, especially for less mobile members.

My previous roles entailed many hours on committee work, some voluntary, some fee paid. I am accustomed to working constructively with people with differing viewpoints and a trustee body encompassing a variety of opinions is one which the Charity Commission recommends. I believe in respect, time for opinions to be aired and considered and honest face to face discussion. For future reference and understanding, factors discussed and decisions made must always be recorded.

My committee experience includes:
Secretary to the Board of Thongsley School Governors, Huntingdon.
Cambridgeshire County Committee, Girl Guiding.

Chairman of Staff Association, Huntingdon Technical College.
College representative, Huntingdon Industrial Managers' committee.
Cambridgeshire County Committee for CoSIRA (Council for Small Industries in Rural areas).
BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) National Vocational Education Committee.
Society of Authors National Educational Authors' Committee.
Authors North (northern branch, Society of Authors) committee member, Treasurer, Chairman.

There are 5 trustee places to fill. Newly standing for election, in addition to myself, are 3 dedicated conservationists, Roger Cartwright, Steve Benner and Bob Pickup. In asking for your support for myself, I ask also that you support them. Four trustees still remain in post, all having served 5 or 6 years, with further time to serve. These 4 trustees will be sufficient to ensure continuity. I suggest that we need to balance this continuity with five new trustees in order to input a freshness of approach and new and innovative ideas and experience. Circumstances have created this unprecedented opportunity to elect four NEW people at the same time. In so doing you will achieve a better balance on what is YOUR committee elected to manage YOUR Trust on YOUR behalf.

Bob Pickup - Personal Statement

From indigenous AONB family that has lived in the AONB since at least the late 1600's. Personally, lived in the AONB since 2000, but have been a regular visitor/ holiday resident since the 1960's

Have been the ASLT Nature Reserves manager/joint manager since 2012 and being instrumental in setting up the Trusts Current Conservation Volunteer scheme. I liaise with some difficulty at times our main grazier Bill Grayson who is registered Organic, which results in much a more manual intervention/management load on our volunteers, which is not always recognized/appreciated.

Have been instrumental over a number of years in managing and keeping open good lines of communication with the owners of a potential new reserve At Guard Hill Lane, Sandside, almost single handed. I occasionally lead field visits for the Trust. Under past chairperson/trustee incumbents have been instrumental in the previous SLDC development plan along with the AONB -Partnership and some local residents in persuading the Gov Public Inquiry inspector that the original SLDC plan was not sound as it had been presented in respect to the AONB, which has resulted in the current much improved SLDC/LC/AONB specific dev plan, now awaiting Gov approval. This is a first such dev plan in the country. Again, under past Chair/Trustee incumbents been active in pursuing routine planning issues in the AONB, and repeatedly have raised this issue with the current Chair/Trustees of this not currently being continued.

I was vice chair of Blackburn Natural History Society for many years, representing them on many Local Dev Plans and specific planning issues relating to landscape conservation, with significant success, under the mentoring of Peter Jepson [Lancs CC Environmental manager]. I was a Lancs Wildlife Trust representative on the West Pennine Moors consultation body for a couple of decades.

My last paid position was as a Social Work Manager running a team involved in landscaping generation and maintenance programs, together with joint collaboration with the then Croal Irwell countryside management service, working with and developing the life skills of disadvantaged adults in Salford City. I took an early retirement opportunity at 60 and moving permanently into the AONB and enrolled at Lancaster Uni, initially on their continuing education programme, and then their post grad Lake District Landscape course.

I am a Beetham Parish Councillor of a number of years standing, being a fairly lone voice re conservation issues, one issue stands out in me being unable to persuade them to use English Oak from local sources and not to use tropical hardwoods for donated parish seats.

I am married to the long-suffering Margaret, with two adult children one of them living with her family in the AONB. My severe dyslexia has defined my life despite not being aware of why I was so quirky and "always thinking out of the box", until my work at Lancaster Uni precipitated a diagnostic assessment, it was a real eureka

moment in my life. Since then I have promoted the issues of people with so called invisible disabilities, or unrecognized gifts, and am proud to be a Trustee of the South Cumbria Dyslexic Association.

I currently as the Trusts reserves officer am an invited guest at Trustee Meeting but not allowed to fully participate in all deliberations, and thus in my opinion being disadvantaged in some key decision making by the Trust, this is my rational for this application.

I make no apology for my quirky grammatical construct, for me it's a celebration of diversity in its broadest sense, but can be an issue with those who use conventional grammar. I dreaded my English teachers critiques at my sink Secondary Modern School.

Peter Stevens – Personal Statement

I was a lecturer and head of department in a large college in Bury, North Manchester for most of my professional career.

I have a degree in Microbiology and Pathology and the relevant professional qualifications which lead me to work in Pathology within the NHS before taking a PGCE in further and higher education and becoming a lecturer.

Whilst lecturing I also took a lead role in mentoring student teachers for Manchester university within the college as well as a senior pastoral role for students generally. I have also worked for the Open University, Bolton University and Sheffield University in collaborative projects with Bury College.

Despite having para-medical qualifications most of my latter years as a lecturer were involved in Environmental education at A level and degree level. I was a senior examiner and member of the exam setting panel for A level Environmental science for many years.

I took an active role in the UCU trade union and have had experience of negotiating contracts of employment and other policies.

During the 1980's through to the mid 2000's I competed in both triathlon and masters swimming. I have represented GB in both sports at World championships as an age-group competitor.

I took voluntary redundancy and retired in 2012. I became a "Green Volunteer" for the local ranger service and took part in practical conservation tasks.

We moved to Warton in March 2014. A brilliant move and one I will never regret. I quickly became involved in the Arnside and District Natural History Society. I am a committee member with responsibility for running their website.

I volunteer in practical conservation for Natural England at Gait Barrows and for the RSPB at Leighton Moss. I have occasionally worked with the AONB and Landscape Trust volunteer teams. I also monitor a butterfly transect on Warton Crag.

During the last 3 years I have been a trustee of the Landscape trust and have tried to as helpful as possible in meetings and in practical terms with events.

I have a particular interest in moths and have run events at Leighton Moss and the Landscape Trust.

Charity Number 702624.

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