

## **QUESTIONS FROM DEREK SWIFT**

1. In Section E of the Annual Report of the Charity submitted to the Charity Commission in January 2020 there is the following statement:

“Should the trust have reserves in the future years then they would be managed within the same processes as those held by Bath & North East Somerset Council and as prescribed by their financial regulations”

What in essence does this mean? If there was a surplus in the future would the Council be able to claim back past subsidies? If that is possible then the accounts would look very different.

2. In Section D of the Annual Report of the Charity submitted to the Charity Commission there are the following statements:

- a. “working in conjunction with local volunteers, a new self-sustaining wildlife garden has been created in the pond area of the client”

How has the trust built on the goodwill of those volunteers? What have they done to reach out to those volunteers since the construction?

- b. “Work is ongoing to ensure that the Trust's financial activities are clear and transparent. This includes reviewing current financial processes and procedures to allow for ease of income collection and monitoring of spend, to ultimately ensure clear understanding of financial performance.”

There are no accounts being set before the committee at this meeting and no interested member of the community has had a chance to comment on the accounts? This does not comply with the statement in the Annual Return

3. In the minutes of the previous meeting of 7 December 14 (e) it was hoped that a new independent member would be appointed. Will this be covered in the Chairman's statement?

In the minutes of the previous meeting of 7 December 14 (f) the 10-year plan was referred to. When is this 10-year plan to be published?

4. In the minutes of the previous meeting of 7 December 14 (g) A Community Engagement Plan was to be developed. I see that a workshop is arranged for February. How were participants selected for this workshop? There are several of us who have shown a sustained and deep interest in the Park and none to my knowledge have been invited?

5. In the minutes of the previous meeting of 7 December 15. A budget was presented yet in answers to one of my points I was advised that the budget was incorrect as it did not have all income in it. Has the budget now been revised?

6. As a follow up to my question about the Independent examiner. The answers to my questions indicate that the Trustees would rather pay their in-house auditor £255 per annum rather than an independent professional firm do the work for nothing? This seems a bizarre response for a charity which is losing money? Why are the Charity happy to pay £255 for something when they do not need to? Most normal charities would leap at the offer of a pro-bono piece of work.