

Ghar Parau Foundation

Awards Meeting (Round Two September 2020)

Minutes

Purpose of meeting: Autumn Awards

Date & time of meeting: 25th September 2020

Location: Zoom

Invitees	Name	Responsibility	
Chairperson	Andy Eavis	Trustee & Chair	AE
	Nick Williams	Trustee	NW
Treasurer	Paul Ibberson	Trustee & Treasurer	PI
	Phil Rowsell	Trustee	PJR
	Rebecca Lawson (Year -4)	Elected Member	RL
	Rob Middleton (Year -3)	Elected Member	RM
	Fleur Loveridge (Year -2)	Elected Member	FL
	Phil Walker (Year -1)	Elected Member	PW
	Michael Butcher	BCRA Foreign Secretary	MB
Secretary	Howard Jones	BCA Treasurer & Ghar Parau Ssecretary	HJ

- 1) Minutes of the last GPF meeting held 22/3/2020
The minutes were discussed and approved.
- 2) Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda
See AOB.
- 3) Discussion regarding 2020 and 2021 funding of applications

PI explained the current financial position and likely position in 2021 (see his paper attached). Fund is likely to grow by £10k in 2020. NS&I have just reduced their interest rate on Income Bonds to 0.01%. GPF has £51k invested, which needs to be transferred to a suitable alternative. **Action: PI**

HJ (as BCA Treasurer) commented he would propose a reduced donation from BCA due to unspent funds in 2020. There was no Hidden Earth in 2020 so no monies are expected from them. Likely reserves forecast at 31/12/2020 are £125k Capital fund and £48.5k Merdeka, allowing sufficient funds for distribution in 2021. Ring fencing was agreed within 2020 projects at £2,500. **Action PI**

4) Consideration of autumn applications 2020

The MoU with Mulu Caves Project governing distribution of the Merdeka funds was circulated prior to the meeting and was agreed by the Committee.

MCP has suggested a principle of exhausting the Merdeka fund over a minimum of 10 years. There was only 1 application in the autumn 2020 round, Mulu 2021 led by Andy Eavis. Mulu Caves Project have rated this in the highest priority category for funding but with a retention of 33% against delivery of the final report and survey data. The Committee recommended an award of £3,000 to be taken from the Merdeka reserve, but were less happy with the proposed report retention since it was felt that expeditions applying for grants would need the money up front. The Committee agreed a retention of £500, of which £100 is to be released when GPF feedback report is received and the balance when MCP confirm that the final report and survey data has been received. **Action PI** The expedition was also supported for an MEF award. **Action HJ**. Future Mulu trips could be eligible for Pitcher awards which would be funded by GPF.

5) MB raised the issue of carbon impact in his review of the Mulu application. It was felt that there was insufficient information to do anything about this in the current round but it was agreed that this was an important topic for future expeditions. It needs further research and detailed proposals. **Action MB**.

6) It was noted that not all expedition reports end up in the National Caving Library. GPF to consider how to improve this situation. **Action MB/HJ**.

7) Review of outstanding actions from previous meetings (see separate document)

8) Review of Charity Commission report draft

PI presented the latest draft which was accepted and needs now to be sent to the Charity Commission before the end of October. **Action PI**

9) Updates to standing orders

Proposals put forward for revisions to the Standing Orders, including comments and suggestions made by NW, HJ, RL PI and PR were agreed. These include the changes to the treatment of donations and capital which were discussed at the Spring meeting and a change to the conflict of interest clause (see item under AOB). The changes to the standing orders were agreed unanimously.

10) Date of next meetings

It was agreed to keep the application deadline at 28/2/2021 and encourage prospective trips to apply early. HJ had contacted MEF about their spring meeting but had not had a reply. Easter weekend is Sunday 4th April 2021. It was agreed the spring 2021 date would be 18/4/2021 and the autumn date would be held at Hidden Earth if that occurred.

11) AOB

11.1 Conflict of interest

New wording was agreed within the standing orders to ensure transparency. It was noted that the new wording would require someone else to chair the meeting for the period of the discussion if the Chairperson was an applicant.

11.2 Need to understand how no entry or a zero value entry in the online comments affects the average. **Action PR.**

11.3 Consideration for potential up and coming big website projects

There are a number of potential large projects that will take time to implement and priority will need to be given as probably only one project will be able to be accomplished per round due to Henry Patton's available programming time.

11.4 Individual application for Alex Pitcher 22-03-2020-04. This has been discussed and a method has been roughly developed. It was agreed this was the priority for 2021 focus by PR and HP.

11.5 Marking Criteria (future priority) MCP process to be sent by NW to FL for review. **Action: NW/FL**

11.6 Feedback Report due diligence (future priority). **Action: TBC.**

Rebecca Lawson was thanked for her input and energy in the last 4 years

Mick Day's daughter has indicated Mick has left a bequest to GPF, TBC.

Meeting closed 21.20