



Society for the Preservation of Dr. Graham's Homes Minutes of Monthly Zoom Meeting Date: 29 September 2024

Attendees:

- Ralph Piper (President)
- Other members

1. Opening Remarks:

- The meeting commenced with an outline of the reason for setting up our society, along with its mission and goals. All relevant information is available on our website.

Topics: What Motivated Us to Form a Society

1. Preservation of Heritage:

- The primary motivation was to preserve the rich heritage and legacy of Dr. Graham's Homes, ensuring that the historical significance and values of the institution are maintained for future generations.

2. Improving Governance and Leadership:

- There was a recognized need to improve the governance and leadership at Dr. Graham's Homes. Forming the Society allows for a structured approach to address these issues effectively.

3. Securing Funding and Resources:

- Establishing the Society enables us to obtain the necessary government certifications to open a bank account and receive foreign funding. This is crucial for achieving our long-term goals and undertaking preservation projects.

4. Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement:

- The desire to collaborate with all stakeholders, including the Board of Management (BOM) and International Committees, was a significant motivator. Engaging with these groups ensures a collective effort towards the school's future.

5. Addressing Accommodation Issues:

- There was a pressing need to address the unsuitable accommodation provided by the cottages at DGH. The Society aims to improve living conditions for the borders, which in turn will enhance the overall environment at the school.

6. Long-Term Vision:

- The Society was formed with a long-term vision to become a resource for the BOM and contribute positively to the school's growth and development. This includes proposing and executing renovation projects that align with the school's needs.

Mission and Goals:

1. Preserve the Heritage:

- Our mission is to maintain and protect the rich heritage of Dr. Graham's Homes, ensuring that its historical significance and values are passed down to future generations.

2. Improve Governance:

- We aim to enhance the governance and leadership structures at Dr. Graham's Homes, ensuring effective management and decision-making that aligns with the institution's long-term objectives.

3. Secure Funding:

- One of our primary goals is to obtain the necessary government certifications to open a bank account and receive foreign funding. This funding is crucial for our preservation and renovation projects.

4. Collaborate with Stakeholders:

- We seek to collaborate with all stakeholders, including the Board of Management (BOM), International Committees, alumni, and community members, to foster a unified approach towards the school's future.

5. Enhance Accommodation:

- Address the current accommodation issues by renovating the cottages and ensuring that living conditions meet acceptable standards, thereby improving the overall environment for the borders.

6. Be a Resource for BOM:

- Our goal is to be a valuable resource for the BOM, providing support and expertise in various areas to contribute positively to the school's growth and development.

Three-Year Plan:

1. Year 1: Foundation and Certification:

- Obtain necessary government certifications to open a bank account and receive foreign funding.
- Establish a solid governance structure within the Society, with clear roles and responsibilities.
- Begin initial fundraising efforts to support upcoming projects.

2. Year 2: Renovation and Collaboration:

- Start the renovation of selected cottages, focusing on making them suitable for the borders.
- Collaborate closely with BOM and other stakeholders to ensure alignment with the school's needs and plans.
- Initiate the renovation project for the Birkmyre Hostel to increase its revenue-generating potential.

3. Year 3: Expansion and Sustainability:

- Complete the renovation of additional cottages and other necessary buildings.
- Continue to strengthen relationships with stakeholders and seek new partnerships for future projects.
- Ensure the sustainability of our efforts by establishing ongoing fundraising campaigns and seeking long-term funding sources.

2. Collaboration with BOM and International Committees:

- It was acknowledged that our aims, plans, and actions in becoming a society are positive steps forward in contributing to the homes.
- The main aim should be to seek approval and collaboration with the BOM and International Committees.
- Discussion on proposals for specific buildings and alignment with BOM's plans. The original proposal to renovate all closed cottages led to the Willingdon Proposal, which was accepted in principle.

3. Challenging BOM Decisions:

- A member expressed the need to challenge BOM decisions when necessary.

4. Accommodation Concerns:

- It was noted that borders have opted to stay in homestays due to unsuitable accommodation offered by DGH cottages.

5. Land Demarcation and Lease Renewal:

- Recommendation to ascertain land demarcation and renew the land lease before commencing any renovations.

6. Birkmyre Hostel Renovation:

- Suggestion to renovate the Birkmyre Hostel to increase its revenue-generating potential to support renovation projects in DGH.

7. Occupied Buildings and Government Allocation:

- Attention was drawn to the fact that occupying buildings would make it difficult for the government to reallocate that land from DGH.

8. Current State of DGH:

- A strong view was expressed that DGH is in poor health, and despite the IR contents, no individual has taken responsibility or acknowledged the current situation.

9. Future Collaboration:

- A positive takeaway from the meeting was the expressed desire of a member from another OGB group to collaborate with us in the future.

Closing Remarks:

- The meeting was concluded with gratitude for the members' participation and their commitment to preserving Dr. Graham's Homes.

