

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2023
AT DAWLEY TOWN HALL, NEW STREET, DAWLEY, TELFORD, TF4 3JR.**

Present: As shown on the attendance list.

1. Welcome

Hugh Strickland, Chair of Trustees, welcomed all those present with a special thank you to Anna Turner, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Mandy Thorn MBE, High Sheriff of Shropshire, Cllr. Arnold England, Mayor of Telford and Cllr. Becky Wall, Mayor of Shrewsbury.

Hugh explained that for Agenda items where a vote is required, paid members should raise their voting card for their vote to be counted.

Hugh gave his thanks to all the staff and volunteers at Community Resource to which there was a round of applause.

2. Apologies

Apologies have been received from:

Michael Edmunds; Richard Burbridge; Roger Jones; Councillor Ginger – Mayor of Ludlow; Sarah Bullock – Bishop of Shrewsbury; Heather Osborne; Nic Daniels; Julie Mellor; Gina Barrett; Lindsay Pearson, Trustee; Mike Law; Cllr. Julia Buckley; Nick Jones; Sally Themans; Michael Stoddard; Richard Saunders; Barbara Scott; Kate Lees – Shropshire DOLS Team; Lezley Picton; Maureen Jenkins; Alan Bird; Cllr. Shaun Davies – Telford Council Leader; Robert Currie; Jane Latter; Holly Edwards; Bernice Williams; Donna Robinson – Picklescott Village Hall; Jessica Bradbury – Energize; Elizabeth Wilkinson – the DDC; Carol Jones; Laura Atyeo – Open Harmony CIC; Valerie Graham; Anne Christabel Jowett.

It was confirmed that a quorum had been achieved.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 23 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2022 were agreed as an accurate reflection and approved by vote with no objections.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no further matters arising from the minutes.

5. Chairman's Report

Hugh Strickland explained that Bev Baxter, CEO, Sue Homden, Head of Finance, Sue Chalk, Head of Service (Wellbeing & Care) and Alli Richardson, Operations Manager Voluntary & Community Support Team would each be giving an update via a presentation. He also confirmed that CEO Bev Baxter has now been in post for 14 months with the key work during that time being development of the Community Resource strategy for 2023 to 2028.

- The strategy together with the accounts will be available on the website from the end of October.
- During the year we have awarded grants in excess of £200,000.
- Our strive is still to make a difference to the community.

6. Election of Trustees

Hugh gave his thanks to all the Trustees for their time and commitment to the role and explained that each Trustee post is due for re-election after a 3 year term.

Hugh notified all that he will be stepping down as Chairman at the AGM in 2024 and will be beginning the process of recruiting. If there is any interest please get in touch.

Article 47 refers and not paragraph 49.

The following Trustee has been appointed during the year and is now nominated for election.

- Amy Bould

The following Trustee is seeking re appointment by election:

- Nicky Cooper

Both were elected by vote with no objections.

7. CEO's Report

Bev Baxter gave her thanks for all those present for their support and time taken to attend.

Highlights of her presentation included

- The introduction of Sharepoint and Asana.
- Introduction of Mental Health Champions for staff wellbeing.
- We will be launching a tender for a community needs analysis.
- Within Wellbeing & Care in 2022/23 there have been 1,782 sessions/visits/events delivered.
- Within Community Support 2022/23, members of the Oil Buying Club have ordered 684,400 litres of oil making a saving of £41,181.66. Number of volunteer hours donated were 696.
- Within Funding & Advice, the Household Support Fund grant has supported 235 households with £101,000. Warmer Winter grant distributed £22,180. 39 organisations have been supported through grant distribution. Community Buildings have also benefited from advice and support with 226 enquiries being received from village halls.

Bev went on to explain the Strategy for 2023 to 2028 and how it has been a great experience working with the team in order to launch it today.

8. Head of Finance report

Sue Homden gave a summary report of the accounts saying it has been a challenging year with growing demand, 13 interest rate rises and increased competition for funding and confirmed that we continue to be ambitious with fundraising and growing our supporter base. Detailed accounts for 2022/23 are now available on the website.

Sue praised the work of the volunteers with 106 volunteers giving 8,268 hours of their time which equates to a social value of £146,072.

9. Sue Chalk and Alli Richardson Services report (Operations and Infrastructure)

Sue Chalk, Head of Service who gave a presentation highlighting the activities of the Wellbeing and Care projects which include hearing hubs, support groups, community projects and community health events.

Sue gave some statistics for the 2022/2023 period and highlighted the Falls Prevention Events and the new Healthy Eating Awareness and Menopause Awareness events.

The Community Needs Analysis when completed will highlight what communities in Shropshire Telford & Wrekin feel is important to improve their health and wellbeing.

Alli Richardson introduced the Voluntary and Community Support Team via her presentation giving thanks also to their wonderful volunteers. She explained what the team deliver through community infrastructure support for example governance and legal structure advice and support, funding and grant support, training and volunteer recruitment and management support.

Alli showed a video from Open Harmony CIC.

10. Grant awards to local groups presented by Lord Lieutenant for Shropshire, Anna Turner

Hugh introduced Anna Turner who presented awards to the following;

- Maggie Allmark, Artshack
- Joseph Schneider, Rural Art Hub
- Rachel Powell, MHS Shifnal and Communities.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.