



MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE YEWS (HAYWARDS HEATH) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST JULY 2022 AT 2.00 P.M. AT THE YEWS

Present: Ian Sanderson (Chairman), Tim Fraser (Treasurer), Malcolm Hulatt (Company Secretary & Yews Talking News), Colin Darnell (Health & Safety Committee & Yews Talking News), Richard Hornby (Counsellor), Eric Bassett (Health & Safety Committee), Mrs Bassett (Supporter), Shirley Wechsler (Centre Development Manager), Carly Young (Centre Admin Manager)

1. Welcome, Record those present and note any apologies for absence.

Ian welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Sue Darnell (Director)*, John Sabin (Health & Safety Committee), Arthur Gajewski* (AG Contact Centres), Pauline McMullins* (Education Development Trust), David Spershott * (Supporter), Jenny Keay * (Mid Sussex Counselling Service), Claire Oliver * (Impact Initiatives), Caroline Berry (Pilates) and Vivien Littlewood (Supporter). Proxy Votes were received from those marked*.

2. Approve Minutes of AGM for Year 10

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Tim Fraser, seconded by Colin Darnell and carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of Year 9's AGM

None.

4. Annual Report. - Celebrating Year Eleven in the Life of the Partnership.

The year under review was one of gradual recovery after the enforced closure and ravages of Covid-19 during the previous two years. Many of our user groups comprise vulnerable members and so were slow to return after the building was re-opened for use. Although room hire revenues have increased markedly compared with last year, they are still around 20% less than pre pandemic levels.

Nevertheless, we were able to maintain our activities without any additional financial assistance from the government. This was largely due to the efforts of our managers, Shirley and Carly, who have managed the return of our regular users and have attracted a number of new occupants over recent months. We thank them for all their hard work and are hopeful that their continuing efforts will show further increases in our usage levels.

The accounts show that almost £34,000 was spent on essential capital projects. The primary expense was to improve the building's fire safety to comply with latest regulations including the installation of new and upgraded fire retardant doors. We also had to unexpectedly replace the building's ageing gas boiler. Fortunately, the Trustees policy of maintaining adequate reserves allowed us to meet these large costs. Our reserves levels are however now depleted and we will seek funds to restore these to allow us to withstand any future unexpected costs.

There have been several changes to the uses of the upstairs rooms this year. Technology changes led the Talking News to release their studio space which we were able to hire to a

small business. Stepping Stones relinquished their rooms, two of which have been re-hired to small businesses and the third has become a useful meeting room.

We are grateful to Mid Sussex District Council for continuing to provide us with discretionary rate relief and to the Town Council for supplying us with surplus plants to keep the borders colourful. Our gardener Michael Figg is thanked for his hard work in making the grounds look at their best.

Last year we were able to restart our tradition of summer lunches and although we didn't charge we raised funds from donations and the raffle. Sadly we were not able to run any other fund raising events and have instead concentrated on applying for grants.

I would like to thank my fellow Board directors for all the help and support they have given me this year. This year I would like to highlight the role that Colin Darnell has played in chairing the Health and Safety sub-committee which has had to deal with replacing several of the doors in the building and significant maintenance issues. Finally, I would like to thank all our volunteers particularly those that have advised and supported our sub-committees.

5. Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts for the Period Ending 31st March 2022

The Treasurer reported that the Report and Accounts had been made available for inspection on The Yews' website. He thanked Eric Bassett, our Independent Examiner for checking them for another year. Revenue had increased significantly on the prior year when the building was forced to close for long periods but, at £40,000, was still around 20% short of pre-Covid levels. Significant Fire Safety costs have had to be met from our Reserves. This has meant our Reserves have fallen below comfortable levels and we are now trying to rebuild them.

To this end Sue Darnell has refocused her efforts from fundraising events to applying for Grants and other funding. This has already proved successful since the financial year end

The adoption of the accounts were proposed by Colin Darnell, seconded by Malcolm Hulatt and unanimously agreed.

6. Election of Directors to serve on the Board for Three Years

Malcolm Hulatt and Colin Darnell (Directors retiring in rotation) agreed to stand for re-election and were unanimously supported.

7. Election of Richard Hornby to serve on the Board for up to three years.

Richard Hornby, an independent counsellor at The Yews, was proposed as a Director by the Chairman. The proposal was unanimously agreed and Richard was welcomed to the Board.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2022/23 financial year.

Eric Bassett has kindly volunteered to continue in his role as Examiner and unanimously agreed by all. Eric was duly appointed and thanked by all.

9. Any Other Relevant Business or Questions

There was a general vote of thanks to Ian Sanderson for all the time and hard work he had put into The Yews over the last 12 months.

The meeting closed at 2.18 p.m.