

EMSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th July 2015

Prior to the start of the AGM, members and friends enjoyed drinks and canapés to celebrate the Association's fortieth birthday. The need for windows in the Mountford wing was outlined and those present pledged £1450 towards the £6000 needed to install them – a great way of celebrating this milestone. In addition, The Friends of Emsworth Community Health presented the Chairman with a defibrillator to be kept at the Centre.

1. Apologies were received from over 70 members and friends.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4th July 2014

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Lorraine Everett, seconded by Tony Maden and approved by the meeting.

3. Annual Report of the Council of Management for the year ending 31st March 2015

The Chairman drew attention to some of the main events of the year including the proposed upgrade of the premises and decision of Hampshire County Council not to co-locate the library. The layout of the computer room has been improved and a new boiler providing heat to the old building has been installed. Wifi is now available throughout the Centre and the audio systems have been improved. However, rising damp remains a problem for which the Council of Management are currently seeking a remedy. Future plans include the possibility of taking on ownership of the whole property from Hampshire County Council and the start of a Citizen's Advice Bureau at the Centre.

Donations have been received from a wide range of organisations and individuals for which the Association is very grateful.

Approval of the report was proposed by John Davey Jones, seconded by Peter Tier and approved by the meeting

4. Accounts of the Council of Management for the year ending 31st March 2015

James Bassett, the treasurer, thanked Michael Cope, the independent examiner, and all those who had helped him prepare his sixteenth set of accounts and those who had helped with cheque signing. Excess income over expenditure was £7,325. However, this included £6,000 from Emsworth Food Festival so the surplus from our main income sources was only £1,325. The main source of income is lettings and loss of a major hirer would cause a problem for the Association. However, a robust reserves policy is maintained for protection against this and other possible problems.

Electricity costs were lower than last year due to a refund of over- payment to SEB. The solar voltaic panels produce an income of £1400 per year as well as reducing the amount of electricity we buy. Administration, mainly staff salaries, takes the largest slice of the budget and annual rent of £6000 is payable to Hampshire County Council.

James explained the amortisation of the Mountford Wing by which the £180,000 cost of building is gradually written off. £11,218 has been raised for the new build project but £4000 has already been spent on professional fees.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Joan Horton, seconded by Alison Patrick and approved by the meeting.

5. Election of Honorary Officers

Viv Davies took the chair and the following officers were re-elected unopposed: Chairman - Michael Stott, Treasurer - James Bassett, Secretary - Jean Tier

6. Election of Members of the Council of Management

The chair was handed back to Michael who announced that Ann Jolly and Clive Yeomans were not standing for re-election. An orchid was presented to Ann to thank her for all she has done. A presentation will be made later to Clive who was unable to attend the meeting. The following members were elected: Lulu Bowerman, Viv Davies, Cllr Brendan Gibb-Gray, Joan Horton, Laurie Kent, Tony Maden, Alison Patrick, Keith Richardson, Sandie Swaine and Peter Tier

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Michael Cope FCA has agreed to continue as the Association's independent examiner and was re-appointed by a unanimous vote.

8. Amendment to the Constitution

The Secretary outlined the proposed change to the constitution which had been circulated earlier. The Council of Management recommended inserting the words "OR ARE SOCIAL ENTERPRISES" into paragraph 4a (iii) of the constitution. The paragraph would then read as follows:

4a Membership shall be open, irrespective of sex, sexual orientation, nationality, age, disability and race, or of political, religious or other opinions to:

*(iii) associations and organisations, whether corporate or unincorporated, (and including branches of national or international organisations) which operate solely or in part within the area of benefit, are voluntary, non-profit-distributing **OR ARE SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**, and which wish to support the objects of the Association, shall be known as Affiliated Groups.*

The proposal to adopt the proposed change to the constitution was carried with 56 out of 58 members voting in favour with two abstentions.

At the end of the meeting, the Chairman was able to announce that £1450 had been pledged during the evening by member and friends, towards installation of windows in the Mountford wing. This was a wonderful conclusion to a most enjoyable evening.