

## Creative Options Community Project

Annual General Meeting Minutes for 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Venue: Community Garden of the Action Church and via. zoom

Welcome: Everyone was welcomed. All persons attending logged their attendance on a sheet and indicated whether a member of staff, volunteer, member or a visitor. They wore coloured rubber bands to indicate which to help when it came to voting. Four persons attended online via. zoom.

Apologies: - apologies for not being in person were received from Michelle Emereau and Annie Clewlow of Communicare and Ann Cato of St. Denys Activity Group. There were no apologies from members not present.

Minutes of last a.g.m. The minutes of the last a.g.m. were unfortunately lost so couldn't be read.

Introduction to the board of Trustees

Gratitude was expressed to the Trustees for their support for the charity in the last year. Rev. Jenny Elliott had been a really good support for Frances for a long time as a long standing Trustee of the charity. Frances expressed her desire to remain on the board of the Trustees, but to relinquish the role of treasurer. Alison Joyce came on the board the previous year and it was acknowledged that her support particularly with safeguarding was invaluable. Bob Clarke had been a Trustee for 1 year. John Morphew was welcomed as a Trustee as this was his first Annual General Meeting, having recently been accepted onto the board of Trustees.

Particular thanks was expressed to Saire Herschel, who had been a volunteer for a long time and had headed up the 'keeping the hope' suicide prevention work and run the music group and choir. Saire had now expressed a desire to stand down from the charity. Her hard work was acknowledged by all.

Michelle Emereau had retired from the post as drop-in leader. She was thanked for her service. Michelle attended online. Jo was thanked for stepping into her role as drop-in leader from having been a volunteer.

The annual report was read out by Jo Cowan

Treasurer's report was read out by Frances

Presentation of accounts: The accounts were available for viewing

There was £48,156.01 in the bank on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

There was the election of officers for the member's committee.

Mike Long was voted in as chairperson. He was proposed by R. Moutani Krishan and seconded by Saire Herschel

All in favour.

Vice – chairperson Kieran Jude – proposed by Diane Butt and seconded by Mike Long – all in favour.

Secretary Rose Waddup

Proposed by Kieran Judfe and seconded by Mike Long and all in favour.

The seven spaces on the committee were taken up by Susan Burnett, James Lamb, Steve Macmanus, Martin Blair, Sharon Bourne, Diane Butt, Roz Abrahams.

Membership fees were discussed.

David Cowley, the Manager presented 3 possible solutions.

Pay monthly a membership fee, increasing the fee from £5 to £7 as from October.

Three possibilities

- 1) Keep as it is now - £5.00 a month, with extra payment for extra activities
- 2) Manage a flued membership tier from £10 –£15 a month which gives people different options they can opt into
- 3) A sliding scale of membership fees depending on personal means

Which option is the best and acceptable and is realistic?

The photography group run by a volunteer, was taking £2 from non-members and £1.00 from members to attend the group which covered the teas and coffees. The same charge was applied to art.

A vote was taken and it was unanimous that the members accepted that from 1<sup>st</sup> October the fees should go up to £7 per person per month.

Julie stated that Covid19 has taken its toll on people's mental health and surely we could recruit a lot more people who needed our help. She suggested people went out and shared in public together what Creative Options can offer i.e. stall & people with sashes and banner and leaflets to give out – University, Hospital, Marlands, Shirley Precinct

Membership was down around 50% since the covid19 pandemic onset. Need to recruit more members.

Plan was to apply to the arts council for an art training day and art based wellbeing programme.

The social activity was discussed. As in other years, the main drop-in had closed during August with an alternative programme offering a coach trip, meal at the pub, picnic and a bar-b-que.

The Aldermoor community farm had been used as a venue for craft classes outdoors and these had proved popular. There were some plans possibly to return to the farm and do an autumn art activity based around plant rubbing and metal sculpture.

A murder mystery was being written. The plan would be to deliver this online if it could not be face to face yet.

An outline of the service to be offered with the Lottery Grant received in July was given. This funding was half funds for the core funding from the Lottery itself and the rest was from Central Government from the Covid19 relief fund. The covid19 funds were to be spent on the following services.

- 1) The running of Hope Café with two Professional staff on a Saturday evening at a coffee venue in town. Venue to be confirmed
- 2) Hope counselling – 1-1 counselling service for members
- 3) Hope workshop – income generation project – To revive the work started by Emma Bailey in 2019. looking at using Flourish in the Marlands to do this work.

Esther Risdale had provided a very successful 'Time to thrive – thriving beyond covid19' course online during the summer of 2020. She had made a proposal for further work supporting the development of mutual support groups. This was to be considered by the Trustees.

A council grant was going to be applied for to do some work in suicide prevention based on the 'keeping the hope' suicide awareness work. Work was being done on the bid at present.

Longer term funding to be applied for. The charity needs circa £50k a year to run core services. Application to be made using a bid writer with Funded.com

Any other business

David to keep on top of the Government Guidelines regarding the risk around covid19 and what the charity needs to do to keep people safe.

15 persons would be able to attend face to face at present, due to the covid19 restrictions. People would need to book to come along using the google form link.

There being no further business the meeting closed and there was a celebration with a light buffet and a birthday cake as it was the charity's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday.