

HIGHCLIFFE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 1st Annual General Meeting of the new CIO held at Greystones House, Waterford Road, Highcliffe on Thursday 28 July 2022 at 4.30.

PRESENT: Cliff Putterford Chairman
Jan Hollowell Treasurer
Linda Norman Secretary
Together with 42 members

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absences were received from David and Brenda Jones, John Young, Mike and Barbara Thacker, Ann and Danny Burgess, Carol and Bill Ayres, David and Jane Dunsmore.

2 MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 2 DECEMBER 2021

The Minutes of the 42nd AGM were accepted without change.

3 TRUSTEE'S REPORT (as distributed at the meeting)

As we reach the first AGM of the new CIO, we can reflect on a successful transition from the original Charity.

There have been a number of challenges along the way, not least of which have been a very slow recovery of membership numbers from Covid lockdown to sorting out the registration for tax relief on membership payments. The latter being down to the HMRC and Charities Commission whose web sites and support are extremely poor at best. Our Treasurer has continued to make progress and continues to be as diligent as ever.

As noted above, our recovery from the Covid epidemic remains steady. Our membership is still down from pre Covid numbers, but it is pleasing to see the number of recent new members and the fact that many are becoming engaged with groups resulting in some expansion (Petanque being a good example). In addition, there are potential new groups looking to start soon.

Car Parking has remained a challenge, but the obtaining of a master copy of the lease has clarified that now. However, as well all know the spaces available is finite so there is little we can do other than encourage car sharing where possible.

At this AGM we will see the departure of just one Trustee (Peter Mearns) who joined the Trustees last year. He has found that other commitments hamper his involvement. Also, our long standing 'Minutes Secretary' Lynne Kerrigan has decided to step down after many years of service for which we thank her and wish her the best for the future. Above excepted, we are incredibly pleased to say that subject to members support at this meeting all other Trustees are prepared to continue.

Reduced income and increased costs mean that our financial position is challenging but with small adjustments we have continued to maintain a financially secure position. With the recent world and national economic situation maintaining this is a concern moving forward.

A major gap that will have financial consequences if we do not solve it very soon, is the vacant Trustee role of 'Buildings and Premises Manager'. Up until Monday we believed we had a nomination but unfortunately the gentleman concerned withdrew as he was concerned he had over committed. Nominations can be accepted at the appropriate time during this meeting. If we cannot get a volunteer, we will be forced to engage a 'Building Management Company' at a cost. As the Treasurer will detail in her report this will add to the increased costs anticipated and committed and will impact aspects of the cost of membership of the Association.

The fact that we have survived recently without the role being filled, thanks to Jan (the Treasurer), in part supported by others is testament to the selflessness of 'the few'.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (as distributed at the meeting)

Much of what I would like to say has been covered in the Trustees Report.

However, I would like to add my personal thanks to the Trustees Committee who have worked tirelessly to make my first year as Chairman such a pleasurable experience.

I would add to the above the many other volunteers who remain in the background but contribute so much to the success of the Association by their contributions no matter how large or small.

As noted in the Trustees report we all know the economic situation in the country / world is particularly challenging at this time. Obviously, this affects the Association as well as each individual member. We will do all we can to mitigate the increasing costs we face but will have to look hard at the charges we levy during the next 12 months. One way to help keep costs down would be to increase our membership numbers. The Trustees will be trying to promote the Association as much as we can during 2022/23 and I would ask all members to see if they can do their bit regarding promotion of the Association, even if it is just to 'sell the positives' to friends and neighbours and to encourage them to join. You never know, they might like it as much as we do!

I am pleased to say we have a number of new sections being proposed. The first (A new Photography Section) has a 'fact finding' session due in September as advertised in the newsletter. Others are expected to follow.

Sadly, attendance by Section leaders at the bi-monthly Council meetings is very low. This is your chance to review and discuss the actions of the Trustees and to get your views across to them. Please chase your section leaders if you feel you are not getting feedback.

Finally, we introduced new membership cards and colour coded car park passes this year. Please ensure you have them with you when attending Greystones. To ensure only current members are benefiting from the wonderful experiences offered by HCA, the Trustees will be undertaking random checks from September.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can during the next 12 months.

Meantime, make the most of Greystones House, the facilities of the HCA and above all stay safe and well.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer thanked all the Section Treasurers and Group Leaders together with the team of people that help her count on a Monday morning.

The draft accounts were presented to the Trustees and the final accounts were presented at the last Council Meeting held on 14 July 2022. The Treasurer ran through various points in the accounts. A loss of £27k in income and £13k in investments results in a total loss of £40k. In previous years there has also been a loss which was made up from the investments. However a legacy last year resulted in not having to dip into investments,

Utility expenses will dramatically increase and the Accountant has suggested increasing membership fees and NOT to dip into investments. The proposed membership fee is to increase to £15 per annum which is hoped will go some way to pay the increased utility costs. However a suggestion was made that membership should be increased to £20 per annum. A vote was taken which was unanimously agreed.

A gardener has recently been employed at a cost of £25 for 3 hours every 3 weeks.

6 SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary said she had nothing to say.

7 APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS

The Treasurer said Hope Jones of New Milton had again given great assistance over the year and proposed retaining their services.

Proposed by Jan Hollowell, seconded by Cliff Putterford.

Unanimously agreed.

8 OTHER REPORTS

Accommodation – Pauline Peagram - thanked everyone for their input. The grey cabinet is by the ladies toilet for all the groups. The Literary Group and Mens' Shed have ended. A new Photographic Group is starting in September. More fitness classes were suggested. A Group will be featured every month in the magazine.

Kitchen – Barbara Thacker had sent apologies. She has asked again for volunteers.

Membership – Mavis Clark – 972 members have currently signed up although many members did not renew due to Covid. The Chairman said an increase in membership would be the subject of a large push.

Premises- We are actively trying to appoint someone to this role as legally someone has to be responsible for the building. There is a rota of 7 people who check the fire alarm every week but a Fire Office is needed.

Publicity – Chris Nichols – Ann was thanked for her assistance. There is a poster in the Post Office. Chris asked for help in distributing the newsletter into flats and neighbours.

Reception – Lyn Lash – Everything is running smoothly but more volunteers are desperately needed. She reiterated that the car park is a nightmare and asked for the understanding of members.

9 ELECTION OF OFFICERS/TRUSTEES FOR THE NEW CIO

At this point the Secretary took over the meeting.

Election of Chairman – Mr Cliff Putterford.

Proposed by: Francis Davis and seconded by Martin Abbott

The Chairman was elected unanimously.

Mr Putterford then took over the meeting.

All the current Trustees were elected unanimously.

Proposed by David Jewson and seconded by Don Nichols.

All in favour.

Mike Thacker was proposed as President by Cliff Putterford and seconded by Linda Norman, carried unanimously. Tony Mumford was thanked for his input as the previous President.

10 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDERS:

No changes were proposed.

11 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

There are notices around regarding ticket sales and forthcoming events.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Next year there will be some input into the Highcliffe Food Festival. This will be run from Greystones rather than having a stand.

The next Council Meeting will be held on 15 September 2022.

The Defibulator needs upgrading and will be out of action for 3 days. A member asked about the training and it was decided Barbara Thacker would be asked to arrange a further training session.

Lyn Lash mentioned that Hazel Jones is in hospital and she asked that everyone be thanked for their good wishes and cards.

Lynne Kerrigan was given a bunch of flowers for her work as Minutes Secretary.

The meeting closed at 5.25.