

CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

CROWBOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, PINE GROVE, CROWBOROUGH, EAST SUSSEX, TN6 1FE

MINUTES of the Fourth Annual General Meeting

Held at 8.00 p.m. on 22nd October 2013 in the Crowborough Community Centre.

Present:

Chantal Wilson - Chairman

8 other directors

24 other members of the Charity

The Mayor and Mayoress of Crowborough, Cllr. & Mrs Peter Cowie,

The Chairman of Wealden District Council, Cllr. Brian Redman

The Deputy Chairman of Wealden District Council, Cllr Barby Dashwood - Morris

1. Minutes of the Last AGM:

The minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting of the Charity held on the 31st October 2012 were approved.

2. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and in particular, she thanked the Mayor and Mayoress of Crowborough and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Wealden District Council for making the time to be at our AGM. She also remarked that the Community Centre was really becoming the heart of the community and evidenced that with the important forum that the North Weald Clinical Commissioning Group was shortly to hold at the Centre on the subject of maternity provision in the area.

She introduced all the other directors by name and thanked them for their contributions during the year and also thanked the staff team for working so hard to make the Centre a success so quickly. She also thanked Martin Prestage who had decided to resign as a director for all his hard work with bringing the news of the Centre to the attention of the public in Crowborough both when the CCA was focussed on making it a reality and in its build up period after it opened.

3. Change of name:

The secretary asked the meeting to note that the charity had changed its name in September; it was no longer called Crowborough Community Association – 2010 as “2010” had been removed and it was now simply Crowborough Community Association.

4. Commercial Director's report;

Chris Jones outlined the current activity levels in the Community Centre and how they had increased since the opening in June 2012 beyond all our earlier expectations. Not only the number of events, expected to be in excess of 3,000 in the year, but also the breadth and variety of them. He paid particular compliment to Lin Lucas and her team who were so important in creating the responsive and welcoming attitude that the centre possessed. It was certainly not the “white elephant” that many had said it would be two or three years before. The centre now had an active and often updated website to publicise events and also Facebook and Twitter accounts which were regularly updated. In this way he said it was hoped to communicate with all sectors of the community.

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With regards to the café, he said that business was increasing and that it had already created a buzz in the centre; it was hoped that in the future, its hours might be extended into the evening if agreement with some of the groups could be achieved.

5. Finance Report:

Richard Wilkinson then gave a presentation on the finances of the CCA. He reported that in 2012 a small surplus had been achieved thanks to a grant from Crowborough Town Council and that the costs of the new centre had all been paid except for a retention of about £43,000 which would be paid when all outstanding snagging items had been satisfactorily resolved. With regards to 2013, he reported that the first six months to end June had been satisfactory with both income and expenditure within budget. Overall, the charity was on track to be financially self-sufficient in 2015.

6. Accounts and trustees' report for the period ending 31st December 2012

It was RESOLVED to accept the Trustees' Report and Accounts for the period ending 31st December 2012 which had been prepared by and examined by Russell New Ltd., chartered accountants.

7. Auditors or Examiners:

It was RESOLVED to re-appoint Russell New Limited as the auditors or, if appropriate, the Examiners of the Charity.

8. Auditor's and Examiner's Remuneration:

It was RESOLVED to authorise the Board of directors to set the level of the remuneration for Russell New Limited.

9. To consider a Resolution as a Special Resolution that the Articles of Association of the charity be replaced by the revised Articles of Association annexed to the notice of the AGM

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Alan Hooper, the Company Secretary, reported on the decisions taken by the board to recommend to members that the articles of association be changed to achieve the following objectives:

- To replace the current method by which the board members were appointed to one where the members voted for the majority of board members who would retire by rotation over a three year period. This would give more continuity. The procedure under which both Crowborough Town Council and Wealden District Council each nominated a director would remain unaltered. The new board would consequently consist of up to seven elected directors, two nominated directors with the board being able to co-opt directors provided that their number did not exceed 50% of the number of elected directors. The co-opted directors would also continue to resign at each AGM but would be eligible to be co-opted again.
- When voting for the board members, all the members of the board, both individual members and User Group members would form one constituency. At a meeting of the User Group Members held on the 9th October, the User Group Members had passed a Special Resolution consented to this change
- In addition to this, the new Articles formalised the management committee and gave power to the board to appoint certain officers of the charity.

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Upon being put to the meeting, it was RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION that the Articles of Association of the charity be replaced by the revised Articles of Association annexed to the notice of the AGM.

10. Election of Directors:

IT was RESOLVED to elect the following as directors of the charity:

- Chris Jones, a current co-opted director of the charity,
- Alan Hooper, a current elected director of the charity but required to resign under the Articles,
- Frank Lees, a current co-opted director of the charity,
- David Larkin, a current co-opted director of the charity,
- Richard Wilkinson, a current co-opted director of the charity,
- Clive Wilson, a current co-opted director of the charity,

11. Any Other Business:

A question was raised about what action the board proposed to take following the decision of Wealden District Council to sell the Mead House carpark and their former offices in Pine Grove for development. A heated discussion then followed. The chairman reported that the board were considering the position with particular regard to the Pine Grove offices in view of its close proximity to the Centre and with regard to it being the policy of Wealden District Council and the strategy of Crowborough Town Council that the offices should be a civic hub. However despite many meetings, nothing definite had materialised.

12. There being no other business, the meeting was closed.