

## **Newtown Community Association**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 26 February 2011**

#### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Ian Harrison (Chair), Gay Smith (Secretary), Peter Montgomery (Treasurer), Jackie Holdstock (Bookings), Michael Parrott (Publicity), Simon Perseghetti (Property Trustee), Rob Attwater (Vision), George Dumble, Cllr Richard Branston, Debbie McNeile, Dawn Wakefield, Marina Williamson, Su Aves, Billie Cornish, Jacky Cox, Peter Morgan, Rory McNeile, Becky Moore, Noa Knowles, Steve Palmer, Sally Palmer, Angela Vinelott, Gill Westcott, Liz Simonetti, Carrie Davis, David Barker-H.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Tess Nixon, Rob Wynne, Joan Bond (Property Trustee), Kate Dinnin, Cllr Richard Westlake, Muriel Forrest, Tom Milburn and Polly Osterley.

The Chair welcomed those attending the meeting and thanked all who have helped the Association in the past year (report attached). . The chair's report was greeted with applause and a vote was taken and all present overwhelmingly voted in favour of accepting the Chairman's report.

1. The Annual Report from the Secretary (report attached).
2. The Treasurer tabled the Statement of Accounts (attached).
  - a) He reported that we are in surplus £1,500 for the year with £5,000 in the bank. We made a profit on the cafes of £517 and have £120 worth of mulled wine left over from the Winter Warmer and which requires drinking before the end of June! Cost of publicity including cafes was £382. Total income of £2,405 was made up of £2,000 hut rentals, £300 My Neighbourhood Community Improvement Fund (for hut redecoration) and a bank transfer of £105 from ECC.
  - b) A donation of the profits from the "unveiling of the notice board cafe" was sent through Save the Children to the Haiti Appeal made up to a total of £120.
  - c) The Association has been having a debate about whether or not to raise the hut hire fees. Currently we will not be putting our fees up but there are three new items of expense which may require us to do so:

- ECC's annual grant of our rent, currently £2,000, may reduce or disappear altogether.
- We now have to pay for our Water (historically this has been included with the bill of the Scrapstore).
- We now have to pay for recycling and refuse collection.

Treasurer's report proposed by George Dumble and Seconded by Su Aves and Jacky Cox. A vote was taken and all present overwhelmingly voted in favour of accepting the Treasurer's report.

### **3. Election of Property Trustees**

It was explained that Property Trustees are responsible for the 'real' and 'personal' property of the Association and must approve any proposed alteration to the Association's Constitution (not unreasonably withholding such consent). 'Real' property includes tables, chairs, the equipment in the kitchen and similar contents of the hut and Property Trustees (in their role) also agree and sign any Lease Agreements including the Lease with ECC for the rental of the Hut. We require between 3 and 6 Property Trustees. The present Trustees are Simon Perseghetti and Joan Bond. Annie Ross has resigned. Simon and Joan are willing to continue. Two additional Property Trustees were proposed and seconded by George Dumble and Billie Cornish as follows: Peter Morgan and Rory McNeile. A vote was taken and all present overwhelmingly voted in favour of their election as additional Property Trustees.

### **4. Election of Officers**

In the absence of any other proposals the Chair and Secretary agreed to continue.

Chair: Ian Harrison, seconded by George Dumble

Secretary: Gay Smith, seconded by George Dumble

Treasurer: Peter Montgomery is standing down and Rob Hobley was seconded in absentia.

A vote was taken and all present overwhelmingly voted for the proposed and seconded Officers.

### **5. Election of General Committee**

Publicity: Michael Parrott

Bookings: Jackie Holdstock

Health & Safety: Peter Morgan

Additional representatives of individual members were proposed as follows: Marina Williamson, Su Aves and George Dumble.

Those members present voted overwhelmingly in favour of the appointment of these six representatives.

Debbie McNeile offered to assist the cafe team, but does not wish to attend committee meetings. The secretary confirmed that she has the e-mail addresses for all concerned and will keep them informed as appropriate.

## **6. Proposal to Update the Constitution of the Association**

The current Constitution is very antiquated having been written almost 30 years ago and there are several clauses which are difficult to implement; it is therefore proposed to update and amend it , probably through a small group to be proposed and appointed at the next General Committee Meeting of the Association, to which all members are cordially invited. George Dumble stated that his proposal was that a draft constitution from the National Association of Community Associations be utilised as a model and all proposed amendments from the aforementioned Group will first be approved by the General Committee, then by the Charity Commission then proposed for the approval of Members of the Association at a Special General Meeting called for this purpose.

This proposal, in the absence of any other comment, was proposed by Simon Persighetti and seconded by Su Aves. A vote was taken of members present and overwhelmingly approved.

7. The meeting closed at 12 noon.