



Newtown Community Association  
Newtown Community Centre  
Belmont Park  
Belmont Road  
Exeter  
EX1 2HQ

# Annual General Meeting 2023

**Saturday 16 September 2022 at 10:30 am**

The meeting was held in the large room at the Newtown Community Centre, and simultaneously by Zoom

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome and introductions

Chair: Jackie Holdstock. 27 Members present, including 1 on Zoom.  
Apologies: Richard Branston, Rachael Shah, Matt Vizzard

### 2. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2022

Steve presented the Annual Report and summary accounts.  
This included thanks to Will Paley, who has now ceased to be Assistant Manager, especially for sorting out the solar panels so we get paid for the electricity.  
Description of changes to bookings, including deposit and restriction on party bookings to one per day. Report on NCA Activities – Social Café, Qigong, Roots Band and Exeter Jazz Orchestra. Planting for the Bees project. Co-create project to build the planters outside.  
Summary of accounts, the full Annual Report is on the website at [https://newtowncommunity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NCA\\_AnnualReportAccounts\\_2022.pdf](https://newtowncommunity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NCA_AnnualReportAccounts_2022.pdf)  
Headlines: Net deficit (excluding depreciation) is £688. Total income increased by 9%  
Rental income also increased, and grant income decreased, but it must be remembered that 2021 was an exceptional year.  
Motion to accept these proposed by Joe Hancock, seconded Su Aves, passed unanimously

### 3. Election of Trustees.

Steve presented – under the rules, 1/3 of Trustees should resign at each AGM. Jackie Holdstock is resigning and not standing again. The meeting recorded thanks to Jackie for all her support and service over many years. Kev Winser is resigning and willing

to stand again. No new Trustees have been proposed. Jackie Holdstock made an appeal for new volunteers to serve as Trustees.

Motion to re-elect Kev Winser for a further term of 3 years proposed by Steve Palmer, seconded Christina Towler, passed unanimously.

The NCA Trustees are therefore Kev Winser, Rachael Shah, Christina Towler and Steve Palmer.

#### 4. Update on finances for 2023

Steve presented (thanks to Jean for preparing).

Balance (excluding reserves) on 1 Jan 2023 was £9,334; on 31 Aug was £9642, so position is stable.

Average monthly hire income is £2217.

We continue to have a stable financial position, with increasing usage of the Centre.

There is always a drop-off in the summer. However, costs are increasing.

#### 5. Update on achievements during 2023.

Kerrie Seymour presented. Some really exciting things happening, with a good buzz.

The centre hosts a great mix of weekly and monthly activity bookings including;

Health and Wellbeing: Tai Chi & Qigong, Over-50s Exercise, Pilates, Meditation, Yoga

Dance and fitness: Heels with Harley, Adult Tap, Zumba

Music: Violin lessons, Exeter Flutes, Exeter Strings, Doremi,

Education and Pre school: Monkey Music, Access Communications, Lexia Education, Dads & Tiny Tots, Le Petite French school

Cultural Groups: Orthodox Church, Bulgarian Society, Exeter Malayee Association, Salvation Sanctuary International Church

Most regular activities are locally based.

NCA Activities – Social Café meets every month, with craft and talks, and support from Exeter Food Action. Looking at developing this. Roots band has been going for 5 years, good mix of ages and instruments. EJO is going well, with some external bookings. Defibrillator now in position and registered, after a crowd-funder. Taiko drumming workshop coming up soon.

Kev Winser reported on the social media, and developments with the website and image in conjunction with Steve Fearn.

#### 6. Open Forum with Councillors, Community Builder and other representatives.

**Jayne Leaver** (Newtown & St Leonards Community Builder)– Garden for the Bees project producing good local contacts, with lots of engagement. Similar work in Parr Street green space, and interest in replicating in St Leonards. Crochet group now has three opportunities to meet, usually in local cafes; there is a WhatsApp group which is useful.

New Community Physical Activity Organiser for Newtown - Rhian Hawthorne (not present) has set up a table-tennis group meeting on Wednesdays, now a mixed group.

In the wider area, Co-Create have a craft group on Thursdays, with sharing of skills in a supportive environment, as well as running community projects.

Belmont Chapel have a social café on 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday each month, a memory café and group for older people on Tuesdays, with a meal.

Christadelphian Church have activities locally too, with a social café and bake sale.

St Sidwells Centre, Make Tank, Exeter Seed Bank based in Newtown. Studio 36 in Denmark Road had a project "Get on board" to put art, photos etc on their noticeboard.

Full details are on the CB newsletter produced monthly.

If you have an idea, please get in contact.

Su Aves (Devon CC) (The 3 City Councillors Richard, Matt and Andy cover planning, leisure, parks, waste collection etc). Can contact any of the 4 councillors, who will deal or pass on to the others. Devon CC cover roads and parking, care, children's services. Su is on Development and Management which covers county-scale planning, waste, quarries etc.

Su is now chair of Children's Group to get things moving. A lot of people have retired post-Covid, so there are difficulties with volunteers and recruitment and retention of staff. Good news – all of the top offices of children's services are now permanent staff. Feels that more love is needed for areas of Belmont Park. Su now has £5K of locality grant budget for the year, open to receive project proposals (via NCA as umbrella).

Discussion: Devon CC have recently appointed two Councillors to children's services – please expand on what is happening? Su Aves – Devon CC now have two Cabinet level roles, split into education, care and support and disability and special education.

## 7. AOB, Questions and discussion

Chair - Thanks to Alex Leaver for teas, coffee and doughnuts.

Kerrie Seymour– thanks to Su Aves and John Richardson-Dawes for helping and preparing for the monthly social café.

Jayne Leaver – thanks to Jackie Holdstock for all her volunteering with NCA. Jackie – Hard to make decision to stand down, started 25 years ago with bookings and managing keys – applause.

## 8. Closure of meeting

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 11:50.