

Newtown Community Association (Exeter, Devon)

Annual General Meeting 2021

Saturday 25 September 2021 at 10:00 am

Meeting held at the Community Centre and by Zoom

Welcome and introductions

Present: Stephen Palmer (chair), Susanna Aves, Richard Branston, Helen Cleasby, Peter Cleasby, Jacky Cox, Jackie Holdstock, Jayne Leaver, Emily McIvor, Nikki Millican, Peter Montgomery, Jemima Moore, Naomi Paley, William Paley, Mark Palmer, Sally Palmer, Christina Towler, Matt Vizard, Kevin Winser

By Zoom: Chris Dent, Rory McNeile, Elena Milego, Saxon Spence, Ella Westland

Apologies: Kerrie Seymour

Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020

The Annual Report and Accounts were presented by the Chair, with summary slides. These are available at https://newtowncommunity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/NCA_AnnualReportAccounts2020.pdf

The Annual Report and Accounts were approved unanimously.

Update on finances for 2021

Chair presented a summary of the accounts covering the period to 31 August 2021 (see annex).

Update on achievements during 2021.

Will Paley (Assistant Manager) presented the update on achievements (see Annex).

Discussion: Mention of damage; do we have a deposit policy? Yes, policy has changed to require a £100 deposit for all bookings (previously this was risk-assessed for routine bookings).

Kev Winser spoke about the relaunch of the NCA Facebook page this year. Data: 633 followers (up 400% in the last month), reach 1600 with 432 post engagements. Ideas for including a heritage element, history and photos of Newtown. Followers across the world! 71% women. Currently reposting the Scrapstore reroofing project. Looking for ideas.

Discussion: (Elena) Have we considered Instagram? (Kev) Agree that Facebook is noisy; we should be looking at Instagram as we develop engagement. (Peter) Should we be using Nextdoor? (Kev) Possible, it is a matter of deciding which platforms suit the demographic.

Election of Trustees.

Chair thanked those who served as Trustees up to date.

Current Trustees are Jackie Holdstock, Rory McNeile, Kev Winser and Steve Palmer. Rory informed the meeting that he plans to resign as a Trustee once others are on-board. Two potential volunteers

are investigating if they wish to serve. In accordance with the Constitution, Jackie Holdstock is resigning and willing to stand again; Kev Winser was co-opted and is standing for election:

The AGM unanimously elected Jackie Holdstock and Kev Winser to serve as Trustees for a 3-year term.

Comments from Councillors and other representatives.

Jayne Leaver (Newtown & St Leonards Community Builder): Good to see groups opening up again, though people vary in confidence. The Social Café has restarted, thanks to Su, Kerrie and Will and two new volunteers Jane and Janet. Idea for evening Café. Appeal for a quizmaster. Went to Freshers Fair at the University and shared with students on living in the community. Crowdfunding for Scrapstore roof replacement. Mention of the wildflower planting (led by Judith).

Jemima Moore (ECC Councillor) spoke about the green space at Clifton Hill. Possibility of a company being involved in improving the area, ideas for community garden, and a possible amphitheatre. Lease for the Golf Range expires next year; possibility of a consultation for other uses for the land.

Matt Vizard (ECC Councillor) Follow-up on graffiti issues with the Clifton Hill Sports Centre, but action unlikely until construction starts in 2022. Issues with flytipping by the recycling bins – this get cleaned up daily but recurs. Working hard on planning issues, but new building likely especially in Heavitree Road area.

Richard Banston (ECC Councillor): Two issues in Park – the condition of the wall by the outdoor gym, and lighting on the path from the Blackboy Road entrance to the central path. Discussion – (Jemima Moore) issues of lighting on biodiversity, needs and consultation. Question of future of Pyramids and if an outdoor swimming pool could be provided (Matt) Unlikely.

Su Aves (DCC Councillor) Remit covers children's services – significant need for social workers, especially employed staff. Suggested people write to MPs urging more support. Also need more support for special education needs, especially in mainstream, and for early years. DCC covers social care, both adult and children. Highways – doing a lot on walking and cycling especially for short journeys. Working with University and Police – “students are our residents too”. Police are understaffed. Locality grants available.

(Chair) – thanks to Councillors for locality grants, especially for Roots Band and Planting for Bees.

Closure of meeting

(Chair) Thanks to all who participated.

The meeting closed at 11:00