



Annual General Meeting 2022

Exeter Street Community Hall Ltd (FCA registration no 8161)

**7:30pm, Wednesday 29th June 2022
at Exeter Street Hall**

Minutes (approved)

1. Members Present

This year we were able to return to holding a face-to-face AGM in the Hall. 26 Members were present at the meeting. A further three Members had nominated other Members as personal representatives to vote for them at the meeting and 32 members had nominated the Chair of the meeting to vote on their behalf. In all, there were 61 Members voting at this year's AGM.

Directors present: Robin Bailey, Jo Camplisson, Rosie Dewick, Dave Fellows, Graham Thomas.

1.1 Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Dave Fellows, opened the AGM at 7:35pm, introduced the management committee and the agenda and explained the voting procedure. Voting was by a show of hands (using voting cards), with the votes being counted by tellers and then added to the Chair's proxy votes.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes from the 2021 AGM, which had been made available on the Hall website, were presented to the meeting. Graham Thomas outlined their content. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

The resolution to approve the Minutes of the 2021 AGM was proposed by Dave Fellows and seconded by Susan Corlett.

The AGM Minutes were overwhelmingly approved (52 votes in favour; none against; 8 abstentions from Members who were not present at the previous AGM).

3. Presentation of the Directors' Report

The report had been made available on the website. The Chair, Dave Fellows, presented the Directors' Report for the financial year April 2021 – March 2022.

The report was divided into two parts. The first part focused on the Hall's recovery and consolidation following the various Covid-19-related lockdowns. Most hirers had returned, along with our own community groups, and we were able to put on a small number of events. We have supported some very worthwhile organisations. Improvements to the building had been made (e.g. brickwork, new heating for the Community Room). A formal share withdrawal scheme had been put into practice for the first time, with only a small number of members withdrawing some or all of their shares.

The second part of the report looked to plans for the future. We are already staging more events and hope to continue this in the current financial year. We are planning a major renovation of the kitchen in the summer of 2022 and are working towards a more sustainable heating system. We wish to continue to support our diverse community of hirers and users and to promote our social justice agenda.

The Chair thanked Hall employees, volunteers and hirers for their work and help during the past year and stressed that new volunteers are always needed and always welcome.

The resolution to approve the Directors' Report was proposed by Susan Barton and seconded by Iain Chambers.

The Directors' Report was approved unanimously (61 votes in favour; none against; no abstentions).

4. Presentation of the Accounts

Copies of the full report had been made available on the website. ESCH Treasurer, Jo Camplisson, presented the Financial Report and the accounts for the financial year April 2021 – March 2022.

Jo summarised the accounts and explained the income and expenditure account in more detail. The Hall has emerged from the lockdown periods in a relatively healthy financial state thanks to support grants from the government (delivered via Brighton & Hove City Council) and income from hirers in the periods between lockdowns. We had increased the amount we hold in reserve to £10,000 and are holding another £10,000 to use as matching funds for future grant applications for building projects. We have been able to improve the hours and pay for the Hall Manager, following a benchmarking exercise. The main concern for the coming year is the large increase in energy costs.

The resolution to approve the Financial Report for the year April 2021 – March 2022 was proposed by Dave Fellows and seconded by Sally Hunt.

The Financial Report was approved unanimously (61 votes in favour; none against; no abstentions).

5. Appointment of Auditors (if required)

ESCH Secretary Graham Thomas explained that, as our income is below £250,000 per annum, the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 gives the Society the option **not** to have an (expensive) external audit, but instead for the accounts to be presented to the AGM for approval and signed off as correct by the Secretary and two Directors. This must be agreed at the AGM every year for the current financial year.

The resolution **not** to have an external audit of the accounts for the current financial year April 2022 – March 2023 was proposed by Jo Camplisson and seconded by Rita Bowman.

The resolution was overwhelmingly approved (60 votes in favour, one against and no abstentions). The result of this vote meets the legal requirement that no more than 20% of the total votes cast may be against this resolution for it to be valid.

6. Appointment of Directors

For this item Dave Fellows ceded the Chair to Robin Bailey. Robin explained that under ESCH rules, one third of the Directors (or the closest number to it) must stand down each year. If they so choose they may stand for re-election.

Current directors:

- Robin Bailey
- Jo Camplisson
- Rosie Dewick
- Dave Fellows (standing for re-election)
- Graham Thomas (standing for re-election)

Nell Killick and Alexa Povah (joint Bar Managers) have been co-opted to the Management Committee for the coming year. The Hall Manager, Susan Corlett, reports to the Management Committee and attends as required.

6.1 Election of Directors:

Robin Bailey introduced the election of the two candidates standing for re-election as Director. Dave Fellows and Graham Thomas had provided written statements on their background, their interests and their involvement with the Hall; these had been made available on the website and were shown to Members. After the candidates had been introduced and had said a few words the Chair called for votes for each candidate in turn. The results of the votes were as follows:

Dave Fellows, proposed by Jo Camplisson and seconded by Nigel Dewick

61 votes in favour; none against; no abstentions.

Graham Thomas, proposed by Dave Fellows and seconded by Sally Hunt

61 votes in favour; none against; no abstentions.

Dave Fellows and Graham Thomas were declared to have been elected as Directors.

7. Any Other Business

Dave Fellows answered a question about the proposed improvements to the Hall's ventilation and clarified his intention to step down as Chair of the Management Committee (though not as a Director) in the medium-term future. Apart from this there was no other business.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and formally closed the AGM at 8:32pm. The end of the meeting was followed by a social gathering to celebrate ten years of the Society and its predecessor, The Hall Get Involved Ltd, and the return to a face-to-face AGM.