



Annual General Meeting 2024

**Exeter Street Community Hall Ltd
(FCA registration no 8161)**

**7:30pm, Wednesday 5th June 2024
at Exeter Street Hall**

Minutes (approved by the Board, to be approved by
Members at the next AGM)

1. Members Present

26 Members were present at the meeting. A further five Members had (via proxy voting forms) nominated other Members as personal representatives to vote for them at the meeting and 29 members had nominated the Chair of the meeting to vote on their behalf. In all, there were 60 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 of the ESCH Board, Dave Fellows, opened the AGM at 7:35pm and chaired the meeting. He introduced the Management Committee and the agenda, then explained the voting procedure. Voting was by a show of voting cards, with the votes being counted by tellers and then added to the proxy votes held by the Chair.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes from the 2023 AGM, which had been approved by the Management Committee and made available on the Hall website, were presented to the meeting by ESCH Secretary Graham Thomas. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

The resolution to approve the Minutes of the 2023 AGM was proposed by Jo Camplisson and seconded by Nick Szczepanik.

The AGM Minutes were overwhelmingly approved (59 votes in favour; none against; 1 abstention from a Member who was not present at the previous AGM).

3. Presentation of the Directors' Report

The report had been made available on the website. ESCH Chair, Dave Fellows, presented the Directors' Report for the financial year April 2023 – March 2024.

During this year, in September 2023, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of owning and running the Hall with a month-long set of events, raising £10k to add to matching funds for the new toilet block in the process. In general, the Hall has been busier than ever, hosting a wide range of hirers, including a small number of groups that hire the Hall for longer periods each week. As well as our standard hires we are proud, in line with our 'social justice' ethos, to help some groups that do very worthwhile things, and of course to do some worthwhile things ourselves, e.g. hosting our 'Friday Friends' lunches and our regular community groups.

The major building project this year was progress towards the rebuild of the toilet block. We received new planning permission, detailed costings and a structural engineer's report, which together have enabled us to apply for funding. Disappointingly, our first attempt was not successful, but we will keep trying.

A long list of events included the ever-popular children's Halloween parties, two "Pudding Club" afternoons that provided desserts and more to the local community, and of course the annual 'Great Get-Together' street party that we co-host.

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

A member of the Migrant English Project thanked the Hall for our support of their activities throughout the year and especially during a current stressful period.

The resolution to approve the Directors' Report was proposed by Kate McAleenan and seconded by Kath Senker.

The Directors' Report was approved unanimously (60 votes in favour; none against; no abstentions).

4. Presentation of the Accounts

Copies of the full report had been made available on the website and the income and expenditure page was placed on chairs at the meeting for

Members to consult. ESCH Treasurer Jo Camplisson presented the Financial Report and the accounts for the financial year April 2023 – March 2024.

Jo summarised the accounts and explained the income and expenditure account in more detail. There have been increases in both trading revenue and running costs, in line with the increased level of activity at the Hall.

Generally, the Hall's finances are healthy. We made a net surplus of just under £2,500 in this financial year. Whether we make a surplus or a loss mainly depends on the amount of maintenance and restoration work undertaken. This year, although it wasn't negligible, there was less expenditure on big projects than in 22/23 when we renovated the kitchen and posted a net loss. We received one small grant of £1,080 from the Police Recovery Fund.

In discussion it was clarified that, although we do not have funds that are legally restricted, in practice we ring-fence a £10k general reserve for emergencies, plus another £10k to be used as matching funds for building-related grant applications and – at the moment – the extra £10k that was raised in the 'Feeling Flush' campaign for the toilet block during the anniversary celebrations.

The resolution to approve the Financial Report for the year April 2023 – March 2024 was proposed by Kay Stephan and seconded by Harry Puckering.

The Financial Report was approved unanimously (60 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. Our Treasurer is a qualified accountant and the Directors are confident that the accounts are accurate and fulfil all legal requirements.

In discussion the suggestion was made that we could designate someone to carry out an internal audit of the accounts. The Management Committee will discuss how to take this suggestion forward for 24/25.

The resolution **not** to have an external audit of the accounts for the current financial year April 2024 – March 2025 was proposed by Susan Barton and seconded by Fiona Goffe.

The resolution was overwhelmingly approved (59 votes in favour, 1 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

The Chair 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 (standing for re-election)
Dave Fellows
Graham Thomas (standing for re-election)

Kate McAleenan and Jan Archer have recently been co-opted into the Management Committee and attend regularly. Nell Killick and Alexa Povah (Bar Managers) are also co-opted to help fulfil the requirements of our premises licence; they attend as required. The Hall Manager, Susan Corlett, reports to the Management Committee and also attends as required (which in practice is for most meetings, though she does not attend when employment terms and conditions are being discussed).

6.1 Election of Directors:

The Chair introduced the election of the two candidates standing for re-election as Director. Rosie Dewick and Graham Thomas had provided photographs and 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 the Chair called for votes for each candidate in turn. The results of the votes were as follows:

Rosie Dewick, nominated by Sally Hunt and seconded by Alexa Povah

59 votes in favour; none against; 1 abstention.

Graham Thomas, nominated by Gill Hasson and seconded by Amanda Nichols

59 votes in favour; none against; 1 abstention.

Rosie Dewick and Graham Thomas were declared to have been elected as Directors.

7. Any Other Business

Hall Manager Susan Corlett made short announcements about the imminent Prestonville Great Big Green Weekend (8-9 June) and the next Get-Together street party, taking place on 23 June.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and formally closed the AGM at 8:50pm. The end of the meeting was followed by a social gathering where Members could interact with each other and the Management Committee. Members were each given one free drink.