

Together Co Annual General Meeting
11 November 2019
Brighthelm Centre

Tustees Present:

Nataline Orringe (Chair), Jonathan Hyman (Treasurer), Alison French, Clare Hughes

Members Present:

Susan Alderson, Matt Bridgeman-Rivett, Alex Brining, Rachel Collins, Jo Crease, Sean De Podesta, Seb Feast, Sofie Franzen, John Kapp, Beth Morgan, Mel Pickett, Karen Hunter, Hayley Turnbull

In attendance:

Luke Tester, Anne Amner, Steve Lightfoot

With quorum at 11 and 17 members present the meeting was deemed to be quorate.

Welcome and Introductions

Jo Crease (JC) introduced Natalie Orringe (NO) as Chair of the Board of Trustees and by extension, Chair for the meeting.

NO welcomed members to the meeting.

There have been many changes and great achievements this year. The Charity has reduced its work from eight services down to two making it more focused and simpler for service users to interact with us.

We are working with external partners (Assert, POhWER and Healthwatch) to transition the exiting services to new providers.

This means the charity can focus on Befriending and Social Prescribing and then expand these services.

We have increased the number of supporters who work with us whether as volunteers, funders or through corporate fundraising activities.

Apologies

Trustees: Rob Johnston, Ruth Bradley

Members: Lisa Ball, David Botibol, Assuntina Cardillo-Zallo, Sally Clarke, David Cundy, Emily Daniel, Audrey Good, Naomi Lacey, Alexia Lazou, Peter Lloyd, Sharon Maloney, Jenny Meeres, Natasha Rodrigues, Clair Rowe, Mick Townsend, Keith Thomas.

Minutes of the previous meetings (AGM - 11 December 2018 and EGM 27 June 2019)

An amendment was noted to the minutes of the previous AGM.

No amendments were noted for the minutes of the EGM.

Johnathan Hyman proposed that the minutes be passed, seconded by Sofie Franzen. This was passed unanimously.

Receipt of report and accounts for the financial period ended 31 March 2018

The report and accounts were presented by Jonathan Hyman (JH), Treasurer to the Board.

From the accounts it can be seen that we ended the year with a £29,000 deficit. This was planned for and had been agreed by the Board of Trustees.

Operational income increased by 16% from the previous year.

The majority of the expenditure went on business operating costs. Money was spent on developing fundraising capacity to allow the charity to become more self-reliant and to divorce ourselves from public funds.

This year (2019/2020) will be challenging. We have rebranded and moved office locations, with the support of the Board of Trustees.

JH wished to thank all staff and trustees for their work in enhancing the services the Charity provides.

It was proposed, seconded and carried to accept the accounts as presented.

Election of Trustees retiring by rotation

As per the articles of the charity 50% of the trustees retire by rotation each year. The longest serving trustees being the first to be chosen. This year Clare Hughes, Jonathan Hyman, and Ruth Bradley are those trustees. All have asked to offered to stand to be re-elected.

It was agreed unanimously to re-elect all three.

In addition the Charity wished to appoint a further three new Trustees. David Cundy, Steve Lightfoot, and Luke Tester.

It was agreed unanimously to appoint all three.

Appointment of accountants

It was noted that the previous year's accounts as presented earlier had been prepared by Chariot House. The Board have been very happy with the service provided and recommend that they be instructed to carry prepare this year's accounts.

This was proposed, seconded and carried to follow this recommendation.

CEO's Report

JC presented the CEO's report.

Lots has changed in the last year. Some were short-term projects (rebranding), others were longer-term (refocusing the Charity's activities, looking at the financial model etc.) JC expressed her thanks to all staff for their work and support.

Looking forward now the main theme of the Charity is to consolidate what we are doing and focus on variety within the two services that we provide. This will allow us to build relationships with new partners.

The quality of what we do and how we do it will be a reflection on being able to secure ongoing fundraising.

JC reported that the Charity is not only be recognised locally but regionally and nationally.

A key thing to look at in the new year is our diversity and to work at what we do to improve our digital presence.

In this year we will challenge the notion that Brighton is the loneliest city/place in Britain.

JC wished to acknowledge hers and the Charities deepfelt appreciation of two people who have had an impact on Together Co and its predecessors. Sean De Podesta and Susan Alderson will have left the Charity by the end of the year after many years of dedicated service.

Any other business

Sean De Podesta wished to offer a vote of thanks to all the trustees in supporting the Charity in the past year.