

Minutes of Hastings Voluntary Action's AGM and Conference Held on Friday, 29th November 2024 – Hastings Centre

1. Welcomes and Apologies

Mary Carter as HVA Chairperson opened the meeting.

The Chair accepted apologies and thanked attendees for taking time out of their busy schedules to support the AGM.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 17th November 2023

The minutes had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and published on the HVA website. No corrections or comments were raised by the meeting. The meeting was asked to approve the minutes of the AGM on 17th November 2023.

Meeting voted unanimous to accept the minutes of the AGM of the 17th November 2023 as a true copy of the notes of the meeting with no abstentions or votes against the proposal.

Proposed: Nigel Sinden

Seconded: Godfrey Bevan

3. Consideration and Adoption of the Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2024

The Chair on behalf of the Trustees wished to formally thank HVA colleagues for their commitment and dedication over the past year and the huge amount of work achieved by a relatively small team.

Steve Manwaring, Director of HVA, provided the meeting with an overview of the year's work. Across the sector and across the country it has not been an easy time, HVA is no different to many voluntary organisations working in an atmosphere of challenge and volatility, with the additional challenge of withdrawal or non-availability of funds.

HVA continues to offer space at both Jackson Hall and Central Hall, undertakes independent examinations for organisations, processed c14,000 enquires, organised a wide-ranging training programme and collaborated in work on key issues affecting the communities it serves.

HVA leads and supports a wide range of major projects to name but a few – numerous men's health initiatives culminating in Hastings being one of the nationwide destinations for the Baton of Hope in 2025. LINKS continues to offer a safe meeting space and support for refugees and asylum seekers. The Making it Happen programme offering a variety of small grants to local communities. Big Local programme is coming to a close after attracting £1million for this resident-led partnership. Many age-friendly projects making Hastings a good place to grow old. Food Network and sustainable food provision enabling people access to food on a regular basis in a cost-of-living crisis. Holistic health projects focused on young people 18-24. In partnership with Oasis, Broomgrove Community Centre refurbishment, community development worker and social supermarket. Supporting MacMillan Cancer support asset-based community development techniques to tackle problem of late diagnosis for cancer.

HVA has proudly obtained the LIQA Quality Mark after complying with the rigorous application process which included providing 60 pieces of evidence and many interviews.

Steve Manwaring finished by saying what a pleasure it had been to work with staff, trustees and colleagues across many organisations. Such a lot has been achieved in very challenging times.

The meeting raised no questions on the content of the Annual report.

Meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the annual report for the year to 31st March 2024 with no abstentions or votes against the proposal.

Proposed: Jacqui Skilton

Seconded: Jim Reeves

4. Consideration and Adoption of the Independently Examined Accounts for the year to 31st March 2024

Accounts had been circulated with the agenda and independently examined and approved by the Trustees. Full set of accounts published on the HVA website and lodged with the Charity Commissioners.

Finance Manager Laura Dawson ran through a brief synopsis of the core balance sheets.

No questions were raised by the meeting after the presentation of the accounts.

Meeting unanimously agreed to adopt the independently examined accounts for the year to 31st March 2024 with no abstentions or votes against the proposal.

Proposed: Godfrey Bevan

Seconded: Judith Monk

5. Appointment of Independent Examiners

Kreston Reeves were nominated as independent examiners for 2024/25 and delegation assigned to the Trustee Board to agree remuneration of the fees directly with the independent examiner.

Thanks to Ashdown Hurrey for their support over many years.

Meeting unanimously agreed to accept the nomination of Kreston Reeves as Independent Examiners and formally approved them as independent examiners for 2024/2025. Meeting unanimously agreed The Trustee Board could negotiate and agree fee remuneration directly with Kreston Reeves.

Proposed: Jim Reeves

Seconded: Godfrey Bevan

6. Announcement and Election of HVA Board of Directors

The Chairperson stepped down for this section of the meeting.

Steve Manwaring assumed the position of Chairperson for the en-bloc nomination and acceptance of the proposals for HVA Board of Directors as follows: -

Angie Lowe Dr Paula Radice Andrea Randall-Smith

They will join Mary Carter and Dr Nell Chang as HVA trustees.

Meeting unanimously agreed to the appointment of the HVA Board of Directors with no abstentions or votes against the proposal.

Proposed: Godfrey Bevan

Seconded: Peter Chowney

7. Questions

The meeting was opened for questions: -

Question: What is happening to the Big Local Partnership?

- Steve confirmed that the 10-year Big Local programme of resident led partnership funding had come to an end. The funding has been fully spent. Steve highlighted a new initiative in the area at Broomgrove Community Centre, work to include refurbishment of building, provision of a community worker, and a Social Supermarket.

Question: What is happening at Ore Community Centre?

- The Centre has its own Board of Trustees and HVA is not directly involved in delivery of this project. Any enquiries should be made direct to Ore Community Centre.

Formal part of AGM Closed