Minutes of the Hastings Voluntary Action AGM

Friday 28th November 2025

1. Welcome & Apologies

    - Mary Carter welcomed and opened the meeting. Difficult time for Voluntary Sector in Hastings less money around and whilst resources are being stretched, sector continues to achieve a lot in difficult circumstances.
    - Apologies read.

2. Approval of the minutes of the past HVA AGM held on 29th November 2024

    - Meeting requested to approve the minutes of the previous AGM 29th November 2024. The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and displayed on the HVA website.
      Proposed: Jackie Everard, HARC
      Seconded: Angie Lowe, Hastings Furniture Service
      The minutes of the AGM of the 29th November 2024 was unanimous approved by the meeting with no abstentions or objections.

3. Consideration and adoption of the Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2025

    - Steve Manwaring extended thanks for colleagues giving up time to be at the AGM. It is a great day for the sector to come together. During the past year various research projects had been commissioned across the sector. East Sussex annually has no less than 14m volunteer hours for various causes, an enormous effort. It was a privilege to present the report on behalf of the team of really creative and committed people, a tribute to their work and commitment. Sarita will be retiring at the end of the year; she will be greatly missed. Teresa has also left HVA to do more work with Dance Hastings, although both HVA colleagues are leaving they have chosen to keep their connection with HVA.

    - The AGM celebrates commitment of our organisation's support to other organisations in all sorts of different ways. To highlight a few - the funding advice service levered in over £1m of investments. HVA continues to provide organisations with up-to-date information and is developing a new format for the website. Continues its commitment to learning, running over 30 separate training courses for members. Recruitment for CLORE's social leadership training programme is open offering 25 free of charge places to emerging leaders in Hastings. The one stop shop at LINKs project. A commitment to access for green spaces. Central Hall is now fully refurbished and open for hire. Thanks to Simon Hubbard for overseeing the £200k funding for refurbishment of Broomgrove Community Centre building and community development worker appointment. The hugely successful Baton of Hope.

    - Being ambitious, taking risks, bringing the sector together, making connections and networking, across a whole range of events. All of this is dependent on an active membership, committed team of staff, trustees and workers.
      Proposed: Alex Francis, Hastings Quakers

Seconded: Nigel Sinden HBC Councillor
The meeting unanimous voted to adopt the Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2025 with no abstentions or objections.

4. Consideration and adoption of the audited accounts for the year to 31st March 2025

    - Dr Nell Chan Treasurer for the Trustees took the meeting through the annual accounts and gave a brief synopsis of the balance sheet showing HVA was in good shape with funds up slightly on last year. This year HVA required an independent examination because the £1million threshold had been crossed.
    - The Trustees have approved the accounts, and they have been lodged with Companies House and The Charity Commission. Thanks to Laura for her impeccable management of HVA's accounts and undertaking the additional work required due to the independent examination.

    Proposed: Kikki Briggs Association of Carers
    Seconded: Jacqui Skilton ESRA

    The meeting unanimous agreed to adopt the audited accounts for the year to 31st March 2025 without abstentions or objections.

5. Appointment of Auditors
    - Full audit this year was challenging but successful. This process is an important validation of HVA's financial status and way that HVA works.
    Proposed: Angie Lowe
    Seconded: Alex Francis Hastings Quakers

    The meeting unanimously agreed to the appointment of Kreston Reeves as Auditors without abstention or objections.

6. Election of HVA Board of Directors
    - The Chair stepped down for Steve Manwaring to take over the election process of HVA's Board of Directors. Steve thanked the Board for their commitment, passion and thoughtfulness.

    - Ther are currently vacancies on HVA's Trustee Board nominations and co-opted members outside of the AGM process. Angie Low Furniture Service, Dr Paula Radice of Enjoycation, Andrea Randall-Smith Little Gate Farm. One further nomination for secondment being followed up.

    Proposed: Jane Caley, Women's Voice
    Seconded: Jackie Everard HARC

    The meeting unanimously approved the election of the HVA Board of Directors without abstention or objections.

7. Close of Annual General Meeting - 10.35am

8. Open the floor to questions
    - Alex Francis, Hastings Quakers – asked what value is being placed on the non-general volunteer work that contributes to the charity in light of SORP 26?

        - General position clearly mindful of all changes in volunteering and will be working alongside that, learning and training aspect will follow up any changes inclusive in approach to volunteering.

    - Philippa Beagley Dance Hastings – taking up volunteer dance buddies with learning disabilities looking for some training around health and safety, boundaries, safeguarding, where can this be accessed. Number of organisations looking for this support.

        - Need for a further discussion with organisations on the range of relevant training needs to meet the needs of volunteers promoting best practice.

Meeting closed 10.40am