

EXETER ST JAMES COMMUNITY TRUST LTD

MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ST SIDWELL'S COMMUNITY CENTRE SIDWELL STREET EXETER ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 6.30PM

Present: 33 shareholder members registered their attendance including directors Di Boston (Chair), Paul Layton (Secretary), Aylwyn Bowen, Robyn Connett and Harry Temple.

1 **Welcome**

Di Boston welcomed members to this the first AGM of the Trust.

2 **Apologies**

Kai Kin Yung, Judie Yung, Ben Bradshaw, Edith Southall, Bernice Hosking, Lis Miles, Janet Penrose, Mike Reddaway, James Pugh, Cliff Dampney, Jean Northam, Terry Northam, Meg Hitchcock.

3 **Minutes of the Special General Meeting 16 January 2015**

The minutes were approved, signed and adopted as a true record.

4 **Matters Arising**

None.

5 **The Directors' Report**

Two issues arose from consideration of the report:

(i) "*About St James*" – it was apparent that the joint Trust/Forum newsletter, which was well received, had not reached all households in the ward as intended. Distribution and delivery arrangements would be reviewed to correct anomalies.

(ii) Boundary Commission Review – should LGBCE proposals for Exeter (due at the end of September) mean a change to the integrity and/or existing boundary of St James what were the implications for the Trust? It was understood that the status of the Trust would remain unaffected as it was not a geographically bound society – membership was not dependent on residence in St James. Furthermore, St James, the community for whose benefit the Trust existed, was not only defined by the current ward area, but significantly was the designated area of the Exeter St James Neighbourhood Plan which would remain in force and continue to be applied across the current ward area.

The report was adopted.

6 **Approval of Accounts**

Paul Layton spoke to the Financial Statement for the year ending 31 March 2015 which showed activity for the first eight months of the Trust's existence. Income was derived from two sources, grant and share income. Directors were grateful for the support of Cllr Jill Owen for providing DCC funding to cover start up costs and to members for purchasing shares via the opening membership share offer.

Membership remains open to all over 16 who support the society's aims and objects and Directors hoped that this would continue to grow. The Trust currently had 204 members raising £3,500 in share income.

The accounts were adopted.

7 **To consider audit exemption or auditor appointment**

Rules require that members must vote annually whether or not to have accounts audited. A full audit is legally required only when a charitable society's assets reach £2.8m or its turnover exceeds £250,000.

The Directors' recommendation that, owing to the fact that the Trust holds no assets and is a fledgling organisation, the accounts be unaudited was approved.

8 **Resolutions tabled by members**

There were no resolutions submitted.

9 **Election of directors**

The following having been duly nominated were elected as directors:

Aylwyn Bowen
Robyn Connett
Harry Temple

Paul Layton would continue as a Board member but Di Boston announced that she was stepping down.

10 **AOB: Queen's Crescent Garden**

Responding to members' questions the following points were made:

- Serious fundraising to enable the implementation of the regeneration masterplan via application to grant givers or share issue could only take place once legal title to the land was secured and the land leased to the Trust by ECC.
- The compulsory purchase process undertaken by ECC was slow and bureaucratic and would prove lengthy if the CPO was contested.
- Ownership of the land was problematic, last known in 1900 but now untraceable.
- The dedicated QCG fund held by ESJ Forum stands at approx £2,000.
- Maintenance continues to be carried out by volunteers including regular grass cutting and weeding; assistance given by police cadets, university grounds staff and Exeter Round Table; new gate on the Longbrook Street perimeter.
- St Sidwell's Primary School pupils each to plant a daffodil bulb in borders this autumn.
- A Tea in the Garden fundraising event was held in May.
- QCG a beneficiary of the current John Lewis token scheme.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.