

EXETER ST JAMES COMMUNITY TRUST LTD
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ST SIDWELL'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL YORK ROAD EXETER ON 5 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.30PM

Present: 49 shareholder members registered their attendance including Directors Robyn Connett (Chair), Rebecca Bower, Beth Osment and Harry Temple.

Robyn Connett explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider and vote on the Resolution of the Board:

That this meeting of the members of Exeter St James Community Trust Ltd hereby agrees to change the name of the society to Exeter St James Neighbourhood Trust Ltd.

Robyn Connett explained the background to this proposal. When the Trust was first formed it followed guidance from Wessex Community Assets, WCA, and adopted their model Rules for the Trust. WCA has now confirmed that its Rules are not fully compatible with charitable status as, if the situation arose, it would be possible to transfer the assets of the Trust to a non-charitable organisation. Unfortunately it is not possible to simply change the existing rules to overcome this problem and the Directors were left with three choices:

1. Do nothing and ignore the problem – this was not an acceptable position for the Directors to take.
2. Not be a charity – this would preclude the Trust from applying for many grants and was not the status that had been intended when the Trust was set up.
3. Set up a new society with rules that were fully charitable and transfer all the assets to the new society.

The Directors are pursuing the third option and WCA have referred us to Co-ops UK for advice and are paying for their costs. Robyn Connett handed out a flow chart and explained the steps needed to achieve the desired outcome of a new charitable society but still called Exeter St James Community Trust Ltd. The first step is to change the name of the existing society so that the new one can be formed with the name Exeter St James Community Trust Ltd, hence the proposed resolution.

The process required two further Meetings of Members and it was queried if these all needed to be quorate. This was confirmed and that the quorate number, on current membership, was 26. It was suggested that proxies be used so that this could be achieved more easily and it was agreed that the Directors would look into setting up this process – it was confirmed that proxies were allowed by the existing Rules.

Robyn Connett said that the proposed new Rules, using the Co-op UK template, were on the Trust website along with the existing Rules so that members could review them and were welcome to raise any questions and queries with the Directors.

The Resolution was unanimously approved.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.