

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Fire and Water Company

Monday 15th February 2021

Remote meeting via Zoom. Invitations had been issued to all members and registration was through Eventbrite.

Meeting began at 7pm and ended at 8:15pm

Agenda, Finance and other papers referred to were shown by sharing files on the Zoom page.

- Welcome and introduction

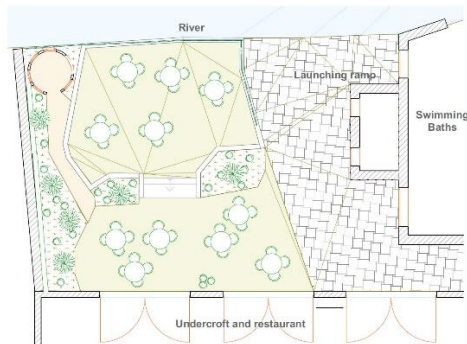
Phil Hawdon explained that the 2020 AGM last spring had been cancelled due to the Covid19 restrictions on face-to-face meetings, but the papers for the year 2019-20 had been sent to members. This Remote AGM using the Zoom platform is a chance to catch up, and is also covering most of the 2020-2021 year, which has not quite reached its conclusion.

- MEMBERS PRESENT: Phil Hawdon, Freda Davis, Tom Stringfellow, Malcolm Gardner, Isolde Davey, Clare and Karl Nestor, Grahame Cotteril, Garry and Jean Stringfellow, Dot Foster, Ann Dower, Liz Leach Murphy, John Truelove, Sam Irvine, Sean Lynch, Gwen Hawdon, Peter Davis, Adam Wilkinson, Jude, Viv Jorrison, Julie Wade, Nancy Clark, Paul Mansley
- Appointment of Chair: Dot Foster proposed as Chair for the meeting by FD seconded by PH Agreed unanimously
- Amendments to the Articles of Association proposed TS seconded FD
 - It was explained that the wording in the articles needed to reflect the fact that the application to the Charity Commission had so far been unsuccessful, and that the current articles required the Board to meet face to face at least once a year, which was looking unrealistic.
 - Proposed by TS seconded by FD:
 - To change the description of Sowerby Bridge Fire & Water Ltd throughout from 'the Charity' to 'the Company'
 - To amend article 4.3 so that 'at least one face-to-face meeting of Board members' is not mandatory every 12 months. Proposed TS seconded FD
 - Agreed Unanimously
- Financial report: The financial report for 2019-2020 was circulated to members last Summer when the AGM was cancelled. No audited accounts available for this year yet but will be published on website following the financial year end. Discussed Building costs ring fenced.
- TS shared the accounts via a link.

Question: Ann Dower could not find the accounts on website. PH agreed to investigate this.

- Annual Report (including updates on fundraising and the garden)
 - Due to the restrictions there have been no significant events this year. Community development plan is being prepared.
 - Future funding: HAZ cultural project to run over 3years which will help with our own development plan. There is £120k bid in with 3 partners to Historic England-results not known. There will be a hub for events across the town and will feed into the development plan. There is an outreach endeavour to film interviews giving peoples' views on the town. Our building development plan has changed little from the commencement. Existing 10 phase plan still in operation. The pace of the Project development depends on funding.

- HAZ grant £508k. There has been a small amount of work done on buildings during Covid particularly shed 2 and Fire Station basement. Work on toilets, walls, electrics. Thanks to Denholt Engineering, JMH builders for plastering and building work. Halifax Renewable Energies for underfloor heating and heat exchanger.
- Rubbish collected and in Fire Station for inspection .
- Current Tenants:
 - Calderdale Theatre School;
 - Imagineer;
 - Rush Bearing;
 - Puzzle Hall;
 - Phoenix Bowmen.
 - Possible future let to bike hire/training company.
- VJ DF and PH have done a lot of work planning the garden. Probably due to Covid, timing of trees coming into leaf, birds nesting etc. unlikely to be able to start until end of year. Hope to plant fruit trees, Plants with colour and scent, herbs, have an Arbour. Volunteers will be needed for levelling garden.



- Overall financial support.
 - No event money but had Covid support grant and supplementary grant from CMBC. Covered our outgoings for a year. Had roller shutter door fitted to Fire Station Basement which is to become our office and drop-in centre.
 - £508 HAZ grant to re-roofing, floors structural alterations, wiring heating etc. Contractors starting soon. Hope to spend £100k before end of year. Membership is low due to lack of opportunities to promote F&W at fairs, events, with only 3 new members and one corporate this year.
 - Grant from AHF towards due diligence and development plan of £15k.
 - Financial snapshot £9960.51p in general fund £12698 ring fenced towards film proposal and consultant invoices.

- £30k spent on pigeon removal, asbestos and temporary floors, structural consultant, CDM advisor.
- VAT we are registering for VAT which means tenants will be charged VAT. Some initial adjustments may be made, depending on circumstances to absorb some of this.
- Thanks to Wheawill and Sudworth Accountants, EPS, ET Technical Events, Mrs Stringfellow (cakes) many others
- DF thanks to PH
- Merchandising:
 - This is the 4th Fire and Water calendar. We had a large submission of photos and a good judging panel. All year round submissions of local photos needed, especially winter scenes. Lot of places closed for selling but Artichoke ID did well at selling. Income £750. There are 40 left. Collecting tins usually in hospitality spots so no results this year except for ID at Artichoke Wholefoods Shop.
 - 300 soiled T shirts donated by Calder screen print and washed by CN were transformed with the printed Logo or tie dyed, and brightly coloured. TieDyes are the best sellers. The take is over £400. Clare plans for Hoodies in the future.



- Election / Re-election of Board Members
 - Ann Dower had applied to join the Board. Ann introduced herself and spoke of her business experience and current Voluntary sector positions as Finance Officer at Healthy Minds, and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees at Calderdale and Kirklees Women's Centre.
 - Malcolm Gardner, Clare Nestor and Tom Stringfellow had completed their term on the Board but were willing to stand again.
 - All four were elected Unanimously.

- AOB

Isolde Davey announced that the Seed swap would take place at Artichoke starting tomorrow for drop off for a week then swap for three weeks after. Hand disinfectant etc. on hand.

Thanks for everything to Phil and the team from Liz Leach Murphy for all that has been done and Imagineer can't wait to be in the building.