

**Minutes of the first BCHL Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022  
at 7pm at Southport & Birkdale Cricket Club, Trafalgar Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 2HF.**

**Those Present:** Members: Ian Anderson, Grazyna Daniel, Roger Daniel, Chrissy Gadd, Tony Gadd, Stephanie Gibney, Susan Guest, Tim Hall, Richard Henwood, Judith Hunter, Phil Margham (Chair), Mandy Margham, Seonaid McNab, Mary McQueen, John Mawdsley, Jennifer Mawdsley, Linda Morris, Helen Parmiter, John Pugh, Elizabeth Rea, Gill Rees, Gaynor Rimmer, Peter Rimmer, Sylvia Thompson, Jane Wallis, Sandra Waters, Andy Webb, David Williams, Sandi Wilson,

Trustee Nominees: Wendy Hewitt, Kim Wallis, Jo Ives, Rhona Morris

**Apologies for Absence:** Sally Moss, Roger Fieldhouse David Spratt, Jane Barr, Eleanor Mehew, Sarah Moriarty, Susan Fantom, Angela Williams.

**1. Opening Remarks.**

Phil Margham, Chairman, welcomed members to the first AGM of the Birkdale Community Hub & Library. He introduced his fellow Trustees, Andy Webb, Sylvia Thompson and John Pugh and expressed regret that Trustees Sally Moss and Roger Fieldhouse were unable to attend due to illness.

**2. Annual Report from the Trustees**

Phil Margham, referred to the annual report which had been circulated to members.

He focussed on the dedication of all volunteers and supporters and how proud he is of what we have achieved together, particularly building and opening within the constraints of the Covid pandemic. Phil thanked Ian Anderson and Tim Hall the Volunteer Managers, Andy Webb for his IT expertise, and everyone involved in cataloguing and preparing the library for opening. He also thanked Chrissie and Tony Gadd for creating and running the 200+ Club (which has raised over £12,000 nett since 2017) and all those helping with publicity etc.

Phil expressed thanks to Merseyrail for leasing the building for a peppercorn rent and also for arranging a grant to purchase the lift and ensure disabled access throughout the building. Merseyrail will also maintain the lift on behalf of Network Rail. The grant funding, which arrived after much of the building work had been completed, has provided the charity with savings for future projects.

Phil mentioned the Birkdale Methodist Church room which is open three days a week where much of the cataloguing and book sale activity is carried out. He described the extensive range of Large Print books available at the Church, together with the Home Visit book service for those unable to get out. Phil advised that the Board of Trustees was being increased from six to nine members, with three Trustees being elected each year to ensure new people with different and diverse skills were being brought in.

**3. Finance Report from the Treasurer the adoption of the statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 2020/2021.**

The Finance Report was presented by Andy Webb in the absence of the Treasurer. He advised that the Charity was dependent on its income from three main streams, the 200+ Club, the sale of books and venue room hire, together with generous donations and grants. This year the 200+ Club raised £3502 nett. Book sales raised £1814 and room hire, which is in its early stages, raised £835. Currently there is a revenue shortfall of approximately £2,000 per annum, covered by our healthy reserves. Room hire revenue should increase going forward, as we host more events and activities. We have agreed a target of increasing the overall revenue by £3,000 per annum to provide for future increased costs.

**3. Finance Report from the Treasurer the adoption of the statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 2020/2021 continued.**

A resolution to adopt the statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 2020 to 2021 was proposed by Ian Anderson, seconded by Chrissie Gadd and carried unanimously.

**4. Confirmation of appointment of the Independent Examiner, Daniel Style.**

A resolution to approve the appointment of Daniel Style as Independent Examiner was proposed by Andy Webb, seconded by John Pugh and carried unanimously.

**5. Election of new Trustees, “Resolution that the four Trustee Nominees are approved by members”**

A resolution to approve the appointment of the four Trustee Nominees, namely Wendy Hewitt as Secretary, Joanne Ives, Rhona Morris and Kim Wallis was proposed by Mandy Margham, seconded by Tim Hall and carried unanimously.

**6. Retirement of Sally Moss and John Pugh as Trustees**

Phil Margham said how sorry we all were that Sally Moss was unable to be present to receive her gift from the Board members as thanks for her outstanding contribution since the start of this project in 2013. Sally had kept the accounts from the very beginning, a particularly complicated task during the re-building phase, and continued to do a wonderful job for the Charity. Phil had presented Sally with her gifts from the Trustee Board members earlier in the day.

Phil then went on to thank John Pugh for his work for the Charity and for his wisdom and knowledge of local affairs. John has been supportive of the project since the beginning and his connections through his work previously as an MP and now as a local councillor were invaluable helping to guide us through the long process of getting the Charity up and running. Sylvia Thompson then presented John with his gifts from the Trustee Board members.

John Pugh thanked Phil and praised the Trustees for the hours of work they have put in, their dedication and experience and added that they had set the bar high for future Trustees. He added that he considered Tim Hall and Ian Anderson, the Volunteer Managers the best double act in the business.

**7. Any other Business from Members**

Sandra Waters asked why there was a need for nine Trustees. Phil Margham replied that it was to invite people with a diversity of the experience the Charity would need to continue to evolve and thrive and to spread the load of work between nine instead of seven.

Jane Wallis mentioned on behalf of Lindsey Martin, that any member wishing to help us apply for the Jubilee Grant or to be involved in the event to contact Lindsey.

Ian Anderson mentioned that over time we would need to continue to invest in the fixtures and fittings within the library. He is also keen to have regular activities in the Station Master’s House for members.

Stephanie Gibney, mother of two, a member, and a regular Library user, asked what was the balance between raising income and providing events that were accessible for free. Phil Margham replied that a number of activities provided were free to participate in and room hire was at a reduced rates for charities. He reiterated that accessibility and being free is fundamental to the “object” of the charity.

**8. Closing Remarks**

Members were thanked for attending and the meeting was closed at 8 pm.

/wjh 4.4.22.

