



NORTH AVENUE YOUTH CENTRE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 19 June 2019

Present: Rev Ken Thom; Trevor Andrews, Lee Ashley, Jane Humphreys, Rebecca Stanley, Margaret Watchorn (all members of the Management Committee); [xx] young people together with parents, volunteers, staff and guests

Apologies for absence: Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst, the Lord-Lieutenant of Essex ; Dr James Bettley, the High Sheriff of Essex; Pete Bardwell, Maria Lee, Martin Solder, and Sisters Margaret & Moira (members of the Management Committee)

1. Welcome: the Rev Ken Thom, Chairman of North Avenue Youth Centre (NAYC) Management Committee opened the AGM at 18.15 and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Councillor Bob Massey, the Mayor of Chelmsford, for attending and presenting the awards; and he thanked the representatives of organisations which have provided funding last year and/or this year, without which NAYC could not operate.

2. Minutes and matters arising: The minutes of the AGM held on 20 June 2018 were approved and signed. There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Report & Accounts for 2018: the Rev Ken Thom referred to the Review for 2018 which had been given to people as they arrived. He highlighted the following:

- in April last year we appointed NAYC's first full-time manager, Charlie Newton, who has embraced her post with dedicated enthusiasm
- as a result we have been able not only to continue to run sessions on three evenings a week, but also - for the first time - to introduce a programme in the school holidays.
- NAYC relies mainly on grant funding to operate. The largest grant for our running costs comes from Essex Youth Trust which has supported us from the very beginning in 2000 – we are very grateful to them for their continuing support. We also appreciate support and funding in 2018 from Essex Community Foundation, Walter Farthing Trust, and the United Reformed Church - both locally from Christ Church and at the regional level. Last year it cost us just over £52,000 to run the Centre. Most of this is on staff costs, with the remainder on activities and a contribution to the cost of running the premises. Our income last year was just under £44,000, so there was a shortfall of just over £8,000 which was met from our reserves. Our Trustees' Annual Report and full accounts are available to view on the Charity Commission's website:

<https://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/CharityWithoutPartB.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=1125028&SubsidiaryNumber=0>

- last year we were very fortunate to secure just over £40,000 from Chelmsford City Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Fund. With this we were able to upgrade the facilities for the young people. We now have an all-weather outdoor play space at the rear of the premises, formally opened last month by the then Mayor of Chelmsford, Yvonne Spence. We also had CCTV and a proper fire alarm system installed, a bike rack and new signage outside, and a new wall mounted TV plus the projector and screen we're using this evening. We are grateful to Councillor Jude Deakin for helping us bid for this grant, and to Trevor Andrews, one of our trustees, who managed the project to spend it.
- we continue to benefit from practical support in many ways from Essex Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Essex Youth Service. And we are also blessed with a great team of volunteers – both those who help Charlie to run the sessions and those who serve as trustees.

4. Introduction of appointed members of the Management Committee:

the Rev Ken Thom explained that under NAYC's constitution the Chairman and two other trustees are appointed by the United Reformed Church, which owns the premises. The two appointees are **Maria Lee** and **Jane Humphreys**. Maria is a United Reformed Church Related Community Worker serving this area, and Jane is NAYC Treasurer. In addition Martin Solder is the trustee appointed by Essex Youth Trust; he could not be present as he was attending one of their meetings. Martin is also County Director of Essex Boys and Girls Clubs.

The Management Committee is advised on safeguarding matters by the Safeguarding Officer for the United Reformed Church at regional level, Nicola Grieves. Nicola was present and asked to stand.

5. Election of members of the Management Committee: Those standing for election were:

- Trevor Andrews
- Peter Bardwell
- Gabrielle Horton (known as Sister Margaret)
- Moira O'Sullivan (known as Sister Moira)
- Rebecca Stanley
- Margaret Watchorn (willing to serve as Hon. Secretary)

Jane Humphreys proposed that all those named be elected to the Management Committee for the year ahead, and this was unanimously agreed.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Lee Ashley who had served as a trustee for the past fifteen months, but was stepping down at this AGM.

6. There being no further business the Chairman declared the AGM closed at 18.30.

After the formal meeting, the Youth Centre Manager, Charlie Newton, showed videos of activities enjoyed by the young people. She then invited the Mayor to present the awards.