

Patcham Memorial Hall AGM 2022 MINUTES

Thursday 16th June 2022, 4.30pm.

Patcham Memorial Hall, 3 Old London Road, Brighton, BN1 8XR

Present: Hugh Woodhouse, Pamela Hubbard, Mary Taylor, John Hogg, John Williams, Maria Hogg, Jan Mulreany, Cllr Carol Theobald, Michael Shade, Annie Corpe, Sue Seymour, Elizabeth Dwiar, Sandie Cooper, Rick Wiggins, Lucy Potter, Freda Slatford. Apologies received in advance from: Penny Balchin, Caroline Lucas MP, Sophie Hogg, Christine Eden, Elizabeth Storey, Dave and Pat Rogers, Sadie Southgate, Linda McCrae.

The AGM was chaired by the Trustees' Committee deputy chair, John Williams in the absence of the Chair through sickness. Attendance was 10 members of the public, and 7 members of the committee, all of whom are resident within the area of benefit; therefore a Quorum was in place and the AGM could go ahead.

- The minutes of the 2021 AGM, previously circulated, were summarised by the Secretary, and agreed as an accurate record by those who had been present. It was noted that the research and decision regarding the Defibrillator siting was still to be completed. The floor agreed it is still a good idea, given that the nearest one is at the Church gate, some distance away. Councillor Theobald asked if the committee has investigated funding for the provision and training, this will be included in the research task.
- The Chair's Annual Report, the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year under report, January to December 2021, the estates and bookings reports, and previous year's minutes had been circulated to people who responded to the AGM invitation by email prior to the meeting; copies were available for reading at the hall by all. Reports referred to the impact of the Covid-19 crisis, as necessary, but they were generally more positive and discursive than under the previous year's post-covid conditions, as guided by the Charity Commission. Reference was made to the significant Covid-related government and council funds that had been awarded to the Hall, which allowed the recovery and refurbishment of the estate possible following the necessary shut-down.
- The Deputy chair thanked the Committee for its work during the year under report, and these thanks were echoed from the Floor, for "keeping it going". The Covid Crisis committee will now stand down, its work more or less complete, though with a watchful eye on the situation should changes happen.
- Previous to the AGM, the Trustees had approved the 2021 accounts for presentation. HW noted that the income generated by lettings was one third of the previous year, but that as Covid-recovery funds had been received from the national Business Support Grant, a business-interruption clause in the Hall's insurance policy, and the Rampion grant through the Sussex Community Fund, the income was above 25k. Consequently, the accounts were examined by Jenny Robinson FCA, a local independent examiner, and approved. A question about the apparent equivalence of the business interruption grant and the cost of the Air Source Heat Pump was raised, HW described it as coincidental.
- Councillor Theobald congratulated the Board on the management of the Hall and the Accounts in another difficult year.
- John Hogg described the refurbishments, including redecoration etc, following the change of the heating system. The new Air Source Heat Pump system had

been in operation for a year although obviously not used all of that time – feedback has been positive, and costs were as expected for this past year. A note of caution was raised, bearing in mind the likely increase in energy costs. A question was raised about the adequacy of the level of heat for sedentary activities, such as the U3A art group; JH would again check the instructions for change of temperature etc. were clear, and offered to demonstrate to the usergroup leader if necessary. He also explained the wifi system, confirmed that the chairs are now at the fire limit of 100, and dealt with a question about refurbishing the stage curtains. The Garden Task Group is now two people working with John, and they are managing the meadow and perennials on a regular basis, occasionally bringing in a tree expert to maintain the high hedges etc.

- John Williams was able to report that lettings are increasing slowly after the hiatus, and that people appear satisfied with the precautions that still need to be in place. Annie Corpe, a regular hall user, reflected that it was a difficult job well done, and asked about the feasibility of implementing an online booking system. She kindly volunteered to take on looking at this for the committee and will work with Jan Mulreany on improving the website, including linking it with social media outlets existing in Patcham already, such as the Facebook pages, the Patcham Community Board etc. in the coming months.
- In discussing publicity about the Hall, it was again stressed that the trustees of the Charity do not have a hand in the programming of events, and do not intend to create additional work for this voluntary team by implementing anything additional other than the necessary fundraising. Having said that, the centenary of the decision to establish the Hall falls in 2024, and they would start to plan how the commemoration might best take place. They would welcome any supportive ideas and practical activities to fulfil this future celebration. People interested in working with the committee to put on special activities could make contact through the secretary or the treasurer, via pmhpatcham@gmail.com
- Trustee election:- the re-election, en bloc, of the community trustees (ES, HW, JW, JM) had been approved by the appointed charity trustees (MT, CE and PH) at their earlier meeting, and they recommended and proposed to the floor that this should be ratified. No objections were received, and so the four “officers” are elected for a further three years, until 2025, as in the Memorandum and Articles of the Charity.
- Any Other Business
No items of AOB had been received from the floor in advance nor at the outset.
- The AGM finished at 5.30pm.

Signed:



Jan Mulreany, Charity Secretary to the Trustees
21 June 2022