

Styal Village Community Store, Gallery and Café

Minutes of AGM held on Monday 16th December 2019

10 shareholders attended, of whom 5 were committee members.

Apologies were received by 6 shareholders.

John Novak (Chairman) welcomed all attendees.

Minutes of previous AGM were presented

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Statement.

Given the number of attendees at the AGM the following has been taken directly from the Chairman's Statement to give a more detailed record of the year's developments.

The vehicle by which Earlams seeks to deliver its core purpose has now been well established within the consciousness of residents and the local community. People who use Earlams comment very favourably on the quality of provision and the opportunities it affords to a very wide range of people. Whilst there is a need for all aspects of Earlams to continue to develop and improve it has moved significantly in embedding its core purpose - that of social inclusion, learning and in combating any isolation. This focus on the wellbeing of others was clearly acknowledged by the awarding of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service; this being the highest award given to volunteer groups across the United Kingdom, a prestigious accolade of which all working at Earlams are extremely proud. The statistics demonstrate the level of performance needed to achieve this equivalent of the MBE. Of the 4,000+ charities in Cheshire we were 1 of only 4 that achieved the award. Of the 166,000 charities in the UK only 281 received the award in 2019. It is truly a landmark moment for all the volunteers at Earlams.

Our workforce is exceptional. Our volunteers come from a wide catchment area and commit to our ethos of working which underlines the welcoming reception our customers receive. They work hard, often stepping in when needed to cover. They form a formidable team, without which Earlams would not survive. This year we have appointed a paid Manager to draw together the volunteers and ensure consistent good practice. Progress has been good.

The range of activities we promote in order to achieve our core purpose is very broad. A programme of workshops and talks has been implemented and will become a permanent feature that is offered at Earlams. We are already building a following across the wider community.

Activities undertaken this year to support our core purpose.

- The establishment of a village Defibrillator and the bench in memory of Eric
- Collections for the: Royal British Legion, Marie Curie, British Society for Birds, Styal School Allotment Club
- Through our activities we have supported: The Village Summer Picnic, the village cleanup, Airport Drop-in sessions, Parish Council Drop-in sessions
- We have donated prizes for Styal Prison, the Hog Roast and the Village School
- We have run workshops on painting, card making, health and wellbeing, Iridology, and Gardening Club
- We continue to support local artists through the Gallery, local schools with work placements, young people through DofE placements and people on back to work initiatives
- And we now have free rail passes for mature Styal residents.

Whilst we have a number of Styal Residents who come to Earlams regularly, the level of support from a large number of Styal residents is disappointing. Whilst they would purport to support the Earlams initiative this has been rarely translated into a customer activity that would support Earlams financially and socially. At the inception of Earlams a number of residents were very supportive of the concept, however this has not led them to cross the threshold even to see what we have to offer.

In the coming year we look forward to the consolidation and continued growth of our workshop/talk programme. We would also work with the National Trust and Styal Village Association to develop facilities in the village for residents.

Questions/comments arising from the Chairman's statement.

Free bus passes – information needs to be spread by word of mouth within the village as it is not advertised.

Charity Status has been researched and advice has been given.

Charity Status is of no benefit at present since we are still not in a tax paying situation. We are officially a 'Co-operative and Community Benefit Society'.

The rental situation has been approached with the National Trust and continues to be in an ongoing discussion.

Communication with the National Trust is also ongoing regarding the extended use of land next to Earlams. Ideas for a pre-school natural play area as well as a bowling green for the community have been put to the National Trust. Both of these projects would move further towards providing community facilities for Styal and other local residents.

To encourage Styal residents to become aware of all that Earlams can offer it was suggested that they could be invited to a social evening to make them feel more involved. The Chairman responded that this could be considered.

The Management group has recently co-opted Richard Walker. He was officially proposed by John Novak and seconded by Peter Weigh. The vote was unanimous. Welcome Richard.

Presentation of accounts for the period ended 31 July 2019

The turnover for the period was £139,171. After costs of goods and overheads and making provision for future replacement of equipment, the accounts show a net trading profit of £2,566.

Share capital totals £24,900.

Grants from local and national bodies towards equipping the store, cafe and gallery have been received. A full list of grant contributors is available on request.

For greater detail the Annual Report and Financial Statements are available on request from Earlams.

AOB

A question was asked regarding the minutes of Management Meetings on the website. Attendees were reminded of where the minutes were placed on the website.

It was commented that the Cafe lighting was dull and dark. Management will look into this.

The meeting closed at 8.15