

EARLAMs

Styal Community Café, Shop and Gallery AGM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday February 7th 2022

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Chairman's Report
4. Financial Report
5. Any other business

The Chair, John Novak, welcomed all, explaining that the Annual Report, available for all attendees, was an overview of the year. Full reports for all shareholders were available on request.

17 shareholders attended, of whom 8 were management members.

Apologies were received from 4 shareholders.

It was noted that the previous AGM of 2021 had been carried out virtually. No questions had arisen from the report sent out.

A proposal had been made to co-opt Andrew Hewitt onto the Management Team. This had been accepted.

The Chair gave a verbal overview of his written report.

- i. Amanda Williams was introduced to the meeting. Amanda is a volunteer as well as now dealing with our accounts. Thanks to Liz (our treasurer) and Amanda for their efforts in significantly strengthening the accounts throughout the year.
- ii. It has been a challenging year. COVID rules and safety of both volunteers and customers has been paramount and one consequence of this was to evaluate the use of our space. The 'community' Earlams serves is far larger than Styal Village. For a considerable time many of the 'daily' goods in the shop were rarely purchased (leading to wastage and loss of revenue) and so it was decided to no longer stock certain items. This, in turn led to more space for cafe seating and Gallery arts and crafts display in the shop area. The change has, we believe, contributed to an increase in sales and in a reduction in wastage, thus proving the change was necessary. Unfortunately, again, due to COVID the CPR training arranged and various workshops had to be postponed. However we have continued supporting various charities.
- iii. Significant improvements have been made to the outside of Earlams : resurfacing and

completion of our children's discovery area.

iv. Our manager Barbara Johnson has taken retirement and Jo McDonald, who initially was one of our volunteers, has been appointed as our new manager. We thank Barbara for all her work in her role.

Financial Report

Amanda presented the financial statement, details of which can be viewed in the attachment.

Net assets for the year as at 31st July 2021 are as follows:

2021: £129,257 (2020: £97,309)

AOB

The present management team is as follows:

John Novak – Chair. Liz Jones – Treasurer. Jan Dixon – Secretary. Helen White - Gallery.

Jean Burke. Peter Weigh. Richard Walker. Andy Hewitt.

One member has resigned. John Novak welcomed anyone else who would like to join the team.

Given our healthy financial balance a question was asked regarding any major investments that were in the pipeline. Refurbishment and maintenance are always needed plus contributions to the needs of the village.

Suggestions for further use of funds to be considered:

An extension to the kitchen area.

Covering between the cafe and cabin walkway.

Extension of storage space.

Styal Village Association have a large marquee. John will look into the possibility of using this if appropriate.

A breakdown of the sales figures were asked for. They are as follows:

Cafe £70,340 Shop £13,786 Gallery £9,675.

One shareholder felt concern that the shop's goods were reduced and questioned whether sufficient research had been carried out. John reiterated the reasons why this was felt to be necessary.

The Queen's Jubilee celebrations were considered and it was felt that it was likely that the Parish Council and Styal Village Association would join with Earlams in the organisation of arrangements.

John thanked all those who attended the meeting.

