



Working Together Ludlow

to include people with learning difficulties

AGM MINUTES

3rd December, 2019

BAPTIST CHURCH

Rockspring Centre

Present:

There were 61 people present, members, parents and carers, and supporters, trustees, volunteers and staff

Apologies:

Alison Holman, Richard Geuter, Richard and Caroline Stayner, James Cullen, Graeme Perks, Lisa McCourt, Nikki Bradbury, Sophie Broome, Tottie Aarvold, Ruth Davies, Janine ?, Karen Davies, Tish Docherty, Sarah Thomas.

Minutes of last AGM:

The minutes of the last AGM were approved and signed. Proposed by Sam Hine, seconded by Andrew Norton.

Chairman's Report:

Roma welcomed everyone, and introduced the Trustees.

Roma gave a summary of the difficult decision that had been made to close the Fish Street Café but the very successful move to the Rockspring Centre.

The move had been hard work and Roma gave heartfelt thanks go to everyone who helped under the leadership of Nicola.

Roma spoke of the official opening which had taken place on the 28th May, with Richard Geuter, one of the founders of Working Together, cutting the ribbon as our celebrity guest.

At the beginning of 2019 Nicola had confirmed her decision to step down as voluntary Chief Executive so Sam Hine had set about trying to secure funding, for both the move to Rockspring and a new manager.

The Trustees were very pleased with how things settled down amazingly quickly at Rockspring. Having the room to spread out; plenty of room to welcome more members, the proper kitchen, the food preparation room with proper tables and fridge freezers, café space, a walk-in COSHH cupboard housing a washing machine and dishwasher, room for creative activities a proper office and of course everyone pulling together - we felt we had definitely made the right decision.

On behalf of the Trustees, Roma expressed huge thanks and love to Nicola for all she has done to keep the Working Together light shining.

Roma advised that she was stepping down from being Chair of the Board and handing this over to Nicola, knowing that Working Together would be in safe hands.

Working Together Groups

All the different activity groups came up and presented what they had been doing this year.

Sammy and Jan running the **Youth Club**, (for 11-19 year olds) which has got lots of new members. They have run a quiz, Splodge (art/craft), drama, drums, supper club, croquet and much more.

Diversity went to lots of venues last year, but now can settle at Rockspring with more space. Nikki and Lisa could not be here tonight. This is a great regular group, doing all kinds of activities such as picnic, bingo, pizza making, croquet, bowling and archery, sometimes sharing the Youth Club venue. Many thanks to Diversity's wonderful volunteer Sandra Wilkes.

Sports continues every week at College with Jan and 3 college volunteers, and this includes having access to the gym.

Sewing Bee Has seen the most changes. Susan, our brilliant Sewing Guru, had to step down, and we also said goodbye to Annie. Zoe Bradley stepped forward but had to stop due to her young daughter's ill health (Poppy is doing very well.) Then we were rescued by the valiant Louise. All things Working Together were very new to Louise, but she had taken up the challenge and the group continues to thrive. Although members had been making their own clothes, we have had to go back to basics with hand sewing due to a lack of volunteers.

Writers Club members have been encouraged and helped by Sarah and Rachael, to write stories, poems and articles. They meet every 2 weeks and have their own notice board to show their work on. Thomas, Steph, Rachael and Chloe love their writing.

The Café carries on successfully in their more spacious surroundings, with the help of Jan and Helen, and Andrea who took on the Tuesday Project; James and of course Fiona continue to run the café, and our thanks go to all of them and all the volunteers who help keep WT running.

Nicola North, CEO report to AGM

Nicola spoke about her time as voluntary Chief Executive and the challenges, and achievements faced throughout the year.

She said she had so many people to thank for ensuring that Working Together has a bright future. All the groups continue to be fabulous, and the staff do a great job. Nicola wanted to particularly thank the café team who had experienced the most change.

Nicola said she could have done it without help and support from:

Sam and Nigel (Voucher for Tea for Two)

The Trustees (Certificates)

Accountant Jane Jenner– (Plant) and before they moved on Julie Wright and Sara Curren - accounts and book keeping

Jan and Helen - for keeping a smidgeon of sanity and keeping calm and carrying on in bizarre times — (flowering plant)

Andrea for the experimental 'suck it and see' Together Tuesday project. (flowering plant)

James – who kept popping up over the years and one of the best decisions made getting him to come back for the summer. – (a handmade by Tim beaded Star).

And of course, the redoubtable leader of the café team Fee who's cry of "And I'll just stick the broom handle up my" (Rosemary and Bay Tree).

Nicola thanked the volunteers, without who Working Together couldn't run. Each were gifted a beaded star.

Nicola explained the process we went through to recruit our new Chief Executive, having secured funding from the National Lottery, Reaching Communities Grant. We were very pleased to receive Yvette's application and that Yvette started with Working Together in August.

Nicola invited everyone to do a big round of applause for everything that has been achieved this year and to officially welcome Yvette to Working Together Ludlow.

Yvette – Next Steps into the Future

Yvette shared her thoughts since joining Working Together in August. She thanked her amazing team – Fiona the Activities Manager, James the Activities Coordinator (who is staying on another year), Jan the baker who does so much more, and Andrea the Tuesday Project Coordinator, not to mention the Youth Club, Sports and Diversity teams.

Yvette, with this strong team, plans to make Working Together more sustainable, increasing the number of members over more days of the week.

The aim is to raise the profile of the café at Rockspring and encourage more people to pop in and see us and enjoy food and drink with us. The Baptist congregation had raised £1,000 at their Harvest collection, which we thank them for. This will go towards refurbishing the activity room to make a relaxing space for the café with comfortable furnishings and a lovely outside area in the summer.

WT has been supplying lunches to Islabikes on Wednesdays and catered for 150 people for the Islabikes opening of their new premises, and also provided food for hungry marchers at their Global Strike 4 Future. WT has been asked to supply a buffet for Fairtrade conference in February, and already supply cakes and smaller buffets to order. There will be afternoon teas available, with vouchers for special occasions. We may also look at supplying meals on wheels at home for the elderly. Yvette thanked Sam Hine for all her help in securing funding. Sam and Nigel Bishop have both dedicated many hours of their own time.

Yvette thanked all the Working Together supporters and said four people had volunteered to run the Edinburgh Marathon to raise funds for WT.

Yvette also thanked all the members and staff, and especially Nicola for all her work, and Roma as Chair.

Accounts:

Jane Jenner the accountant, was happy to report that there is £40,000 to be carried forward to next year.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees. Proposed by Julian Crombleholme
Seconded by Susan Geuter

“Taking Care of the Future”

Janna Vigar from MFG Solicitors, talked about the importance of making your will. It is especially important in making provision for someone with special needs to get professional advice. It is a good idea to set up Lasting Power of Attorney, both kinds – for money and for health. If this is difficult due to the level of disability, you can apply to the Court of Protection.

The meeting ended with tea and cakes.