

STIRCHLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
Minutes of Annual General Meeting Monday 13th November 2023
held in Stirchley Community Church

Present: Sandra Cooper (Vice-chair); Paula Aubrey (Treasurer); Heidi Murphy (Committee Member); Julie Rynne (Committee Member); Margaret Walker; (Committee Member); 18 members of the public.

Apologies: Rob Morris (Chairman); Kerry Leslie.

The meeting was chaired by SC as RM was unable to attend due to health reasons. SC welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this annual business meeting.

Minutes of last AGM 14th Nov.2022 were accepted as a true record (proposed by PW, seconded by MW) vote carried.

Matters Arising:

- Ward Plan – appears in the forum’s annual report
- Link to the film organised by John Hemming was put into the minutes of said meeting, However, SC has now asked LC if she would be able to put a direct link onto the website to make it easier to find.

Presentation of Annual Report 2022 – 2023

As per the printed version distributed at this meeting – summary as follows:

- SC commented that our main objectives remain the same – to bring together people who have an interest in Stirchley Ward.
- Local issues include, planning, licensing, public safety, environmental matters, improvements to the area, graffiti removal, highways, street lighting, waste collection.
- Due to the fact that our normal meeting night twice fell on a bank holiday (there being an extra BH because of the coronation of Kings Charles III), and we didn’t want to hold our meeting too close to a Ward Forum, we compromised by not holding one in April, then moving May’s to the third Monday of the month.
- Whenever possible the Forum is represented at other community meetings – e.g. Police Tasking meetings, Ward Forum meetings, Pioneer Places sessions (latter facilitated by BCC), and site meetings regarding various acute and ongoing local issues.
- SC – as the Forums Planning Officer – has regularly kept us informed of submitted applications affecting our area either directly or indirectly. (especially large developments). Comments are made to relevant body on behalf of SNF when requested to do so.
- Networking is a standing item on our public meeting agendas to enable folk to share details of forthcoming events that residents may be interested in.
- Thanks were expressed to Laura Creaven who facilitates ‘comms’ for us.
- Especial gratitude to RM for his work as Chairman over the last few years; he is now standing down as Chair but has expressed a wish to remain as a committee member.
- SC mentioned how grateful Rob and her have been for the support of the committee during the last twelve months.

Acceptance of Annual Report Proposed by Paula Aubrey; seconded by Margaret Walker. Vote carried.

Financial Report

PA presented the Annual Summary to the meeting.

- PA thanked BCC for the financial grant awarded after the Nov. 2022 AGM
- The main expenditure has been Room hire at SCC. Very little financial outlay on printing and stationery,
- Any 'restricted funds' have been spent appropriately.
- The cost of Room Hire has increased (as have so many things during the last year due to the national cost of living crisis) to £20 per hour (=£10 per half-hour as we are not charged for full hour if we only book for e.g. 2 ½ hr for our public meetings).
- All funds (£3352.28) carried forward to our current financial year belong to SNF.

Q1) Are there any specific plans regarding these funds – e.g. for a community event?

A) No. But if BCC are unable to award a further grant (due to the section 114 announced within the last few months by BCC), then this excess could be used for running costs; of course, this would be a matter for discussion at a committee mtg.

Q2) If BCC do award a further grant for the coming year, will it cover running costs for the Forum?

A) Yes, just.

SC thanked PA for her work as Treasurer. Acceptance of accounts proposed by Heidi Murphy, seconded by Margaret Walker. Vote carried.

Election of Committee

- There are fifteen places available in total with only six people standing for election and no new nominations received. Current members in alphabetical order are: Paula Aubrey; Sandra Cooper; Rob Morris; Heidi Murphy; Julie Rynne; Margaret Walker. (It was noted that Diane Johnson was elected to the committee at the last year but later stood down due to health reasons.) Nominations accepted - proposed by LC; seconded by Pete Walker. All re-elected en bloc.
- SNF has the facility to co-opt people to the committee when appropriate.
- Offices/positions will be decided at next committee meeting.

This concluded the formal business meeting,

Networking:

- Following the success of the Snowflake window displays in Stirchley in recent years, we were informed that this year, residents are invited to take the theme of 'Winter in Stirchley'.
- The next Community Market at Stirchley Baths will be held on 2nd December.
- Stirchley History Group will also have a stall there.
- Heidi spoke briefly about an art project that is being set up as part of the Pineapple Road Railway Station development.

Guest Speaker

- Alan Bale talked informatively about his experiences in the 'Alone UK' tv series and happily answered a number of questions with honesty about how he was personally affected by the experience.