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Minutes of the Denby Dale Centre's

16th Annual General Meeting

held December 19th 2022 at 2.00pm at the Kirkburton Hub

Present.

Chairman Roger Bedford, Dept Chairman Jeanette Lodge and CO Paul Jones, 2 trustees, Stuart Merry & Michelle Cowan, 1 staff member, Charlotte Rees and 1 volunteer, Lauren Norcliffe.

Apologies.

Trustees Peter Holt, Richard Brook and Maggie Blanshard, Councillor Will Simpson, staff & volunteers maintaining services.

The Chairman, Roger Bedford, welcomed members and guests.

Minutes of the last AGM which took place on 9th December 2021 had been circulated. The minutes were agreed as a true record, proposed by Charlotte Rees and seconded by Roger Bedford, and accepted by the meeting and signed.

The Annual Report & Accounts 2021-2022.

The accounts had been prepared by Sue Cutting and inspected by Integra Advisors LLP. Sue Cutting, our treasurer, was unable attend but had sent a report on the accounts which had previously been approved by the trustees. She explained that accounts for charities had a format set by the Charity Commission. No particular concerns were identified. Thanks were expressed to Sue and to Angie Bexon, who prepared and paid invoices day to day.

Chairman's Report April 2021 to March 2022

This report is on my second year as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Denby Dale Centre and the seventeenth year of the charity's work. It was another different and difficult year as we have worked with the Covid restrictions and then we had to begin to rebuild the membership of all our activities except the VCS which had become better known by those who needed transport to vaccination centres. Roger then outlined the contents of the Trustees' Report (attached).

We know how hard the staff have worked to support this rural community, but also to support our urban neighbours and I would like to thank them all for their flexibility and hard work over the last year. They truly reflected the aims and values of this charity. Roger thanked the organisations and individuals who had helped to fund our work this year and councillors and organisations who have worked with us. The trustees need to express our special thanks to our Chief Officer, who pushed our work into new directions, working with Kirklees officers, NHS and other 3rd sector organisations to develop Kirklees-wide networking to address community, health and poverty issues.

The acceptance of the Annual Report was proposed by Jeanette Lodge, seconded by Stuart Merry. There were no objections or abstentions.

Thanks were expressed to all involved in the preparation and inspection of the Accounts, our funders, staff and volunteers.

Chief Officer's Report April 2021 to present

As Roger mentioned, the charity reopened as soon as it could, to give the support of our traditional services to our local people.

April 2022 to present.

The work of the Community Anchor is expanding with funding via TSL, via Kirklees Council but ultimately from CCG Kirklees, we are looking to support other new and older groups when needed.

Presently we are supporting new groups such as the Ukrainian families and their hosts, a Veteran' group which hopes to become independent in 12 months, The Savoy Youth and Community Centre which is looking to change its legal status and administration.

Concerns about the cost of living are relevant to both the DDC and the community at large. The charity is looking at ways of reducing its overhead costs so that our reserves can be returned to the pre-pandemic levels. We have 8 projects which have been planned to help the more vulnerable members of society to address their concerns before they fall into crisis. Generally based about the provisioning and development of the Pantry and the sharing of money saving ideas and provision of warm spaces. This work is done in partnership with the Huddersfield Welcome Centre who provide help and support to people in crisis. A Kirklees Directory has been set up to enable people to see activities available to them in the district.

Development of training opportunities about mental health for the man in the street or manages in trade and industry (eg hairdressers) has been initiated by Kirklees but will be made available through the DDC Training arm. In-house volunteer training has been improved and put mainly online and all will be encouraged to review it annually.

Charges for all our services are being reviewed as most have not changed for a few years and increases in wages, fuel and energy have increased our costs.

Present to the near future.

The Community Anchors will become fully embedded into the local community provision. We will be working with two council departments plus the CCG and PCNs from the NHS.

The Community Pantry grew out of the Hardship Fund established during the pandemic. It has now over 50 families who use the facility and it is hoped to develop a mobile/delivery service shortly. We are working closely with the Welcome Centre to collect and distribute food donated into yellow bins which will be sited in local villages. The food will be collected by the Lions and shared as needed by the 2 organisations.

Coffee Mornings at which money saving ideas can be shared and then collated into a leaflet. The development of the directories will be promoted.

Collaboration between allotment and community garden groups will be encouraged so that mutual sharing of knowledge and resources will be easier and the use of surpluses more beneficial. Winter Health Messages and Care Packs will be made available. The funding of the Anchor work is to be extended for the next 5 years.

Elections to the Board

Paul expressed his thanks to the trustees who he said were more involved in the day to day running of the charity than many of those of other groups with whom he worked. 4 of our trustees are required to stand for re-election each year. Keith Barraclough has had to resign due to ill health; Jeanette Lodge, Maggie Blanshard and Peter Holt have been nominated for re-election and Andrea Biggar has agreed to being nominated to replace Keith. Nominations made by Roger Bedford and Seconded by Stuart Merry were agreed by the meeting.

Stuart Merry then proposed a vote of thanks to Paul for his leadership and imagination, the staff for their adaptable and flexible working practises during this time and members, volunteers, & attendees for their interest and support.

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm.