

NEW MILTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF 55TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Community Centre at 7 p.m. on Thursday 9 June 2016

**Present: 55 Members of the Association including
All the members of the Executive Committee and 3 Independent Trustees**

1. PRESIDENTS WELCOME & ADDRESS

Phyllis Inglis welcomed Members and our 3 Independent Trustees to the AGM and thanked everyone for their attendance and support. She said that Malcolm Swan and John Revill would be presenting detailed reports but she wanted to emphasise that we continued to need new Members and more people to make use of our Sections and Activities and serve on the Executive Committee.

She felt that the Community Centre was much needed in the community and she thanked our volunteers who have made it possible for us to operate on a day to day basis. She encouraged everyone to make full use of the Centre even if it was just popping in for a coffee!

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Dee and Dave Mullinger and Kathy Mitchell.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2015 AGM

Malcolm Swan proposed that Section 5 of the 2015 AGM Minutes should be changed to read, "The President thanked Brian...". The amended Minutes were approved. Proposed by Richard B. Ferguson, seconded by Jean Gale

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM 2015 MINUTES

None

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Malcolm Swan began by identifying Members attending an AGM for the first time and giving them a special welcome.

He said that on a sad note we had lost our former Chairman Brian Bayman and we had been notified of a further 30 deaths.

Last year's membership as at 31 December 2015 was 1,274. Our current membership was 1,157 including 187 new members. He hoped that we could attract a further 117 or more members to reach if not exceed last year's total.

He thanked Dorothy Luker, our Membership Secretary for her efforts and was sorry that Dorothy was stepping down from this role.

Malcolm said that he has so many people to thank:

- Firstly those who had come to the AGM and
- Other loyal members (our Section & Activity leaders, Receptionists, Catering staff) who were the backbone of the Centre
- Our Independent Trustees who he introduced
- Our Executive Committee who he also introduced

- Other members providing key roles (Colin Bower, Minutes Secretary, Bob Stephens for his help with Health & Safety, Richard B. Ferguson our Technical Officer who had helped with the new Digital Champions sessions, Nigel King who had taken over as our Webmaster, Genevieve Sagar for her help in setting up our garden that has been so much admired, Sue Lewis for the beautiful floral displays and Jean Gale for running the Lunch Club)

Malcolm also wished to show his particular appreciation of our Caretakers Albert and Manuel and the audience concurred.

Malcolm gave his personal highlights of the past year:

- Our gardens opened by the Mayor stood out as his main highlight. He wished to thank Steve Hill, Genevieve and our Caretakers for bringing this about, and he was delighted that this was such a good use of legacies.
- The display by the Milton Heritage Society which had been much admired for which he wished to thank Phyllis and Steve and Nick Saunders, Local Historian and Councillor Alan O’Sullivan for bringing it to fruition
- New groups using the Centre, e.g. Martial Arts, Beginners Dancing and Digital Champions, for which he thanked Pam Badcock for setting up the dancing and Richard & Jill Ferguson for their help with the Digital Champions. (Richard mentioned that places were still available for the computer etc. sessions)
- The recent introduction of a Publicity Committee to take on the task of promoting the Centre in the town and increasing use of its facilities, for which there was a vacancy for a Publicity Officer.

Malcolm said that he wanted the Community Centre to play an active part in the community and be better-known. His one regret was that people had not come forward as requested to provide backup for key jobs like the Treasurer and the Newsletter Editor. He asked the audience to let him know of the names of anyone who might volunteer to help in any of the roles in the Centre.

Acceptance of the Report was proposed by Shirley Burke and seconded by Derek Sheldrake

6. TREASURER’S REPORT

John Revill was pleased to report that the annual accounts had been signed off by the Examiners without qualification. He presented 2 Pages from the annual accounts and one summary produced specifically for the AGM:

Statement of Financial Activities as at 31 December 2015

John highlighted the 3 main figures in the Statement:

Income	£89,492
Expenditure	£91,872
Loss (after adjustments)	£ 1,633

He explained that the small loss was mainly due to expenditure on the garden when the legacies had been received in other accounting years.

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2015

John showed how in 2015 we had used our reserves to spend some £30,000 on assets.

Summary of Income & Expenditure Jan – Dec 2015

John went through each item in the Summary. He said that he was pleased with income levels in 2015, with hire income stable, a good level of new members to replace lost membership and additional Activities (e.g. beading and additional languages). He pointed out 2 big changes in Expenditure in 2015:

- Increased Employment costs £40,430 (2014 £26,529) as a result of using the caretakers to work on the garden cost-effectively
- Reduced Maintenance costs £16,877 (2014 £33,133) as a result of using the reserves to buy new/more efficient equipment (e.g. boilers, lighting)

John emphasised the importance of every source of income and the benefit of lower costs to come from the new equipment. John's report was accepted. Proposed by Richard Main-Smith, seconded by Roy Prior.

7. MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2015 ACCOUNTS

The accounts were duly adopted. Proposed by Barbara Matthews, seconded by John Chambers.

8. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Malcolm Swan said that his was the only nomination and he would be honoured to continue. Malcom was duly voted in. Proposed by John Wright, seconded by Jim Fearon.

9. ELECTION OF TREASURER

Malcolm was pleased to say that John Revill had been nominated and was willing to continue. John was duly voted in. Proposed by Betty Lacock, seconded by Barbara Matthews.

10. ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Malcolm said that Phyllis Inglis had been nominated and was willing to continue as Secretary as well as President and Newsletter Editor. Phyllis was voted in. Proposed by Brian Barton, seconded by Dorinda Hill.

11. ELECTION OR OTHER EXECUTIVE POSTS

Malcom said that in addition to 6 members of the Executive Committee being nominated, Nigel King our Webmaster had also been nominated. The following nominations were duly accepted en bloc:

Marie Morgan	Steve Hill
Chris Lynott	Betty McNie
Brian Barton	Pam Badcock
Nigel King	

Proposed by Richard B, Ferguson, seconded by John Wright.

12. APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTS EXAMINERS

John Revill recommended that David Shores & Co continue for another year. The recommendation had the support of the Independent Trustees. This was duly accepted. Proposed by Barbara Matthews, seconded by Derek Sheldrake.

John said that, in accordance with normal rotation, he would be proposing a change of Examiner at next year's AGM.

13. PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Malcolm said that a proposal by the Executive Committee to make 4 minor changes had been posted on the noticeboard as required. He summarised the changes as:

1. A requirement that nominations for all Executive Committee posts be received no later than 6 weeks before the AGM. (Clause 7)
2. A requirement for a maximum of 12 Executive Committee posts. (Clause 8)
3. The introduction of proxy voting (Clause 11)
4. Switching Clauses 7 and 8 to put them in a more logical order

In answer to questions from the floor, Malcolm provided the following clarification:

- From next year, a member could vote by proxy, for example, on a published change to the Constitution
- The current Constitution permitted these changes to the Constitution without reference to the Charity Commission

14. RESOLUTIONS OF A NON-CONSTITUTIONAL NATURE RECEIVED

None

15. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEMBERS

Richard Main-Smith said that the Jubilee Room was in a good state of repair and the floor was excellent but a ceiling tile need to be replaced. Steve said he would look into it.

Shirley Farendon (Thursday night dancing) said that after 4 people had been absent for some time (long-term holidays or sickness) - and had been away when subscriptions were renewed - they had been told initially that they would have to rejoin but had been pacified. Dorothy explained that those Members who did not renew were transferred to an active file for 1 year and an inactive file if they had missed 2 years. The latter would have to rejoin but we tried to show flexibility on whether a joining fee was payable.

Sylvia Smith suggested that the Centre offer a cheap membership for Saturday morning shoppers. Malcolm thanked her for her suggestion but said that this had been tried before without success.

In answer to questions from Richard B, Ferguson and Delia Main-Smith, John Revill confirmed that there would be no change in the Centre's fees' i.e. Joining Fee £2.50, Annual Subscription £8 and Affiliates fee £20. He gave his preference to leaving the fees unchanged and encouraging more use of the Sections and Activities and Catering.

Genevieve Sagar wondered if the catering should be closed on a Monday in view of low usage and the requirement to have 2 volunteers all day. Betty McNie said that as a Community Centre the kitchen must stay open. It was explained that there were groups at the centre on a Monday and the matter would be discussed by the Executive Committee.

Dorothy Luker pointed out to the AGM that for new members joining in July, the pro-rata subscription was £4 only.

Malcolm raised the subject of provision of first aid at the Centre and the possibility of buying a defibrillator (cost £850). He stressed that there were pros and cons on buying a defibrillator and the Executive Committee was divided on the matter. There were further negative comments from the floor and approximately 6 people said that they would be willing to use the equipment.

Malcolm said that he had a few responses only to an appeal for first-aiders but the majority of Members present were in favour of attending demonstrations by the local First Responders (Penny Smith & Mike Jukes).

16. DATE OF 2017 AGM

Friday 9 June 2017 7 p.m. was proposed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their support and participation and hoped they had enjoyed the proceedings.

Meeting closed 8.32 p.m.