



## **Minutes of the Denby Dale Centre 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held December 11th 2023 at 2.00pm**

### **At the Kirkburton Hub**

#### Present.

Chairman Roger Bedford, Dept Chairman Jeanette Lodge and CO Paul Jones, 6 trustees, Stuart Merry, Richard Brook, Richard Dawtrey, Maggie Blanshard, Dianne Hughes & Michelle Cowan, 2 staff member, Charlotte Rees and Paula Knight, Councillors, Parish councillors. 3 members.

Apologies. Trustees, Rev Philip Bee, Andrea Biggar and Peter Holt, Councillors Will Simpson and Tim Bamford, staff & volunteers maintaining services.

The Chairman, Roger Bedford, welcomed members and guests.

Minutes of the last AGM which took place on 19th December 2022 had been circulated.

The minutes were agreed as a true record, proposed by Roger Bedford and seconded by Stuart Merry and accepted by the meeting and signed.

#### The Annual Report & Accounts 2022-2023.

#### Chairman's Report April 2022 to March 2023

Roger outlined the contents of the Trustees' Report (attached).

This report is on my third year as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Denby Dale Centre and the eighteenth year of the charity's work. It was a difficult year as we had used our reserves during the Covid restrictions and then we had to begin to rebuild the membership of all our activities. As a consequence, although our capital reserves are healthy because of the property and minibuses we own, our cash flow is severely compromised and it is as a result of donations that we have survived the year.

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers for their flexibility and hard work over the last year. 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 despite suffering from long Covid, has continued to push our work into new directions, working with Kirklees officers, NHS and other 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations to develop Kirklees-wide networking, to address community, health and poverty issues.

#### Accounts April 2022 to March 2023

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.

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 (attached)

April 2023 to present.

Recently Paul has reduced his working week to 4 days in order to manage his energy and help his recovery.

In order to reduce costs the Centre's offices have relocated to the ground floor of the Hub.

The organisation is considered to be made up of 4 parts: Activities; Transport; Places and Core and the report reflects these departments.

The work of the Community Anchor is expanding. A Veterans Group has been supported to establish and gain independent charitable status and Denby Dale Cricket Club has been supported to develop their online presence and administration. Going forward this work, which Charlotte Rees has overseen during Paul's illness, will be done by Helen Hoyle. Funding via TSL, via Kirklees Council but ultimately from CCG Kirklees, is used to support other new and older groups when needed.

Presently we are continuing to support new groups such as the Ukrainian families and their hosts and extending the work done with them to other immigrants in Kirklees who have not previously had as much help.

Concerns about the cost of living are relevant to both the DDC and the community at large. The charity is looking to reduce expenditure and increase income by raising our charges more often so that our balance sheet is positive and our reserves can be increased to that recommended by the Charity Commission. We have 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. This work is done in partnership with the Huddersfield Welcome Centre who provide help and support to people in crisis.

Present to the near future.

The Community Pantry grew out of the Hardship Fund established during the pandemic. It has now over 85 families who use the facility and it is hoped to develop a mobile/delivery service. We are working closely with the Welcome Centre to collect and distribute food donated into yellow bins, paid for by the Rotary, which are sited in local villages. The food is collected by the Lions and shared as needed by the 2 organisations.

Winter Health Messages and Care Packs will be made available again this year.

### Elections to the Board.

Paul expressed his thanks to the trustees 4 of our trustees are required to stand for re-election each year. Richard Dawtrey has stood down due to ill health; Stuart Merry, Rev Philip Bee, Dianne Hughes have been nominated for re-election. Nominations made by Roger Bedford and seconded by Jeanette Lodge were agreed by the meeting.

Roger then thanked the staff for their adaptable and flexible working practises during this time when some restructuring had been necessary and members, volunteers, & attendees for their interest and support.

Stuart Merry then proposed a vote of thanks to Paul for his imaginative leadership and hard work.

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm.