

## HILDA LANE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Trustees held on 14 October 2024 at 7.30pm at St Hugh's Community Centre

#### 1. Present

Alix Bushnell (Chair & Treasurer)  
Neisha Ebanks (Vice Chair)  
Margaret Quarry  
Linda Huggins  
Steph Gray (Secretary, minutes)

Attending: Emma West, Centre Manager, Amanda Ross (Clarion), Olimpia (local resident)

#### 2. Apologies for absence

None.

#### 3. Finance Report - Alix

Alix reported the latest account balances:

Current Account: £5,943 (Sep 2023: £2,755)  
Savings: £3,500 (Sep 2023: £6,051)  
Reserves (NS&I): just over £10,000

The accounts for 2023 have been finalised and submitted now to the Charity Commission and Companies House. The accountant's determination is that the Association remains financially viable as a going concern:

Income: £48,500 (2023: £50,730)  
Expenditure: £58,000 (2023: £71,425)  
Deficit for year: £10,173 (2023: £20,997)

The aim is restore the level of reserves to pre-COVID levels, hopefully in the 2025 financial year.

Alix reported that we have found some economies on utility bills. The PRS licence is still a relatively large expense at £771/year.

#### 4. Centre Management - Emma

##### Funding:

- Play Place are funding the Youth Club sessional staff for two Youth Workers until end of 2024. Emma has been working on a Lottery funding application to cover all Youth Club costs for up to two years from Jan 2025-2027.
- Jack Petchey funding of £900 for Youth Club per year is still in place.

- Clarion Cool Space funding for Yoga ended in September 2024 but is hoped it will be renewed soon. We are currently looking at alternative funding streams to reduced our dependency on Clarion.
- Amanda from Clarion offered to share details of the Action Funder platform which may be useful as a source of grant opportunities.

#### Hires:

- There have been lots of enquiries for Saturday party hires since July 2024 booking steadily increasing around two per month, but only a small proportion become bookings.
- Available slots for regular hire have been promoted on social media. Monday & Thursday need more hires.
- NHS Diabetes groups continue to hire Monday & Tuesdays.
- Sadly, two new potential regular hires have had to cancel due to lack of numbers for sessions they wanted to run.
- The organiser of the HAF programme (school holiday and food) has enquired about booking the hall and meeting room for October half term, though this would not be covered by the normal local authority financial support. Unfortunately, the booking was not confirmed as parents were not willing to cover hire and food charges.
- Warm Spaces yoga sessions have been going well, increased to three sessions on a Wednesday. The first session is quite lightly-attended, so this may be cut back to the previous 10am and 11am sessions which continue to be well attended.
- The new weekend caretaker has been recruited and is working very well with no issues or concerns with reliability.

#### Youth Club:

- This has been going well this year with support from two trained Play Place sessional youth workers and two volunteers who are residents of St Hugh's. Clarion funding was extended until October, and Play Place themselves will fund staff until end of 2024. Most of the children attending are from St Hugh's Estate, with around 20 attending each week. We hope that funding can be found to support Youth Club beyond Christmas.

#### Other points:

- Several Clarion staff and managers kindly participated in a staff volunteering day in July to tidy up the garden area outside of the Centre
- Chiddy from Clarion Futures' Active Inclusion Team along with staff at the local Hawthorn Centre are meeting with Emma to set up a gardening project for local Clarion residents. We hope to involve young people from Youth Club with this.
- The MUGA is due to be resurfaced soon. There is also some work to restore the basketball hoops.
- We are arranging a date with Michelle Parry from Clarion to host an open day for other Clarion-supported community centre staff to provide support, advice and guidance. Emma attended the first event in June at Riverside Community Centre.

### **5. Youth Club - Neisha**

Youth Club has been going really well, and behaviour has been good. The new hairdressing activity is very popular. The bike repair project worked well over summer, but is now closed for the winter.

A new safeguarding process inspired by Play Place is being put in place. Sheralee and Chris will be youth workers leading the sessions.

## **6. Social Media - Steph**

Steph and Emma have been continuing to liaise roughly every two weeks to establish priorities for social media promotion, mainly around regular hire slots, party hires and one off events e.g. craft club, art show or the visit by the CEO of Clarion Housing.

We have been getting a slightly better response recently to promoting Hall hire availability in local Facebook groups - Emma reports seeing more leads coming through.

Amanda mentioned the [Local Village Network](#) platform as a possible option for signposting young people to youth activities at St Hugh's.

## **7. Plans for 2024-25**

Alix set out priorities for the coming year:

1. Secure funding for Youth Club from January 2025 – we need to find some new sources of funding
2. Focus on finding regular hires
3. Refresh the trustee board, looking to get fresh ideas about role of a community centre for younger audiences

The subsequent discussion included ideas for other activities that St Hugh's might host which could appeal to younger audiences, including fitness and gardening. It would be helpful to learn from other community centres e.g. Rotherhithe which hosts clothing repair workshops.

## **8. Election of Officers**

Chair – Alix Bushnell. Neisha proposed, Margaret seconded. Elected.

Vice Chair – Neisha Ebanks. Steph proposed, Alix seconded. Elected.

Company Secretary – Steph Gray. Linda proposed, Alix seconded. Elected.

Treasurer – continue to leave vacant (Alix will continue to fulfil this role)

## **9. AOB**

- The minutes from the 2023 AGM were read and accepted.
- Question: How are volunteers currently recruited? Alix said the estate feels like it has less of a sense of cohesive and engaged community than it once had. Residents are more diverse and there has been less participation in communal activities. To find volunteers, we have previously used Reach volunteering and Do-It platforms.
- Discussion: producing a one-off flyer to promote Centre services to local residents - Clarion housing officers could put this in the noticeboards inside the blocks.
- Question: Has the idea of hosting a tabletop sale been considered, since these can be popular? Yes, it has been tried in the past but people have been unwilling to pay for tables.
- There is a Police Panel meeting on November 13 at Anerley Town Hall, 6-7pm. St Hugh's to promote it to our audiences.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm