

**BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL  
COMMUNITIES CHARITY**  
**Company no: 3327628**  
**Charity no: 1061538**

**Twenty-third Annual General Meeting of Bedfordshire Rural  
Communities Charity held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
Via Zoom.**

**1. Welcome and instructions**

Tracy Cowan, Chief Executive welcomed those present to the Annual General Meeting and took the attendees through the instructions for using Zoom and the functions for questions and voting. Tracy then introduced Paula Grayson, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

**2. Introduction**

Paula Grayson started by thanking everyone in attendance for their support to BRCC. Although this was the AGM for 2019/20 – it would be hard not to talk about the global pandemic and Paula had asked Tracy to present our COVID response so far to the attendees. We would then run the AGM as normal including a further presentation on our year 2019/20.

**3. #WhatWeDo – COVID Response**

Tracy presented a short presentation on the amazing work being done by staff and volunteers during this current pandemic. Staff had embraced the changes and had repurposed by changing roles to support our communities. From doing food shopping for our vulnerable, to wellbeing calls to a dedicated Good Neighbour response hub right through to the Barn becoming an essential food shop offering click and collect. Tracy was extremely proud of the whole team and wanted to record her thanks at the AGM.

**4. Minutes of the twenty-second Annual General Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

- **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **5. Presentation and adoption of the report of the trustees and the audited accounts 2019/2020**

Paula advised attendees that the Directors of BRCC Trading Services had met and approved the accounts of the Trading Company.

She also advised that BRCC full Board of Trustees have also met and approved the accounts of the Charity.

Paula then asked for attendees of the AGM to formally adopt the accounts which have already been approved by the Trustees of BRCC.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Barry George, seconded by Christopher Barker and approved by a show of virtual hands.

## **6. Appointment of Board Members**

1. The following Trustee has joined as a co-op Trustee

1) Cllr Caroline Maudlin

2. The following Trustees have stepped down

1) Sharmila Sohanpal

2) John May

3) Tim Hedges

4) John Lewis

We would like to thank them for their support and service.

3. Each year, a third of existing Board members had to retire by rotation, and could seek reappointment. Retiring this year and seeking reappointment were

1) Paula Grayson

2) Ann Lovesey

3) June Barnes

4) Eric Masih

4. Reappointment of Trustees (proposed and seconded)

These reappointments were proposed by Ian Riches and Stephen Holroyd.

All appointments were approved by a show of virtual hands in favour.

## **7. Appointment of auditors**

Streets were proposed for appointment as the auditors for BRCC in 2021/22 by Chris Barker, seconded by Brian Prickett.

The appointment of Streets was approved by a virtual show of hands.

## 8. #WhatWeDo Presentation

All attendees were given a presentation by Tracy Cowan on a review of the year entitled "WhatWeDo. Presentations were given on the following: -

### • Supporting Communities –

- Co-ordinated network of 45 Good Neighbour Groups with 1450+ volunteers
- Support for 15 Neighbour Plans including leading on 5 Green Infrastructure plans
- Village and Community Agents supported over 1600 clients
- Supported 26 Good Neighbour Groups
- Supported 79 Village Halls
- Fully recruited all Primary Care Network posts taking the team to 21 Community Wellbeing Champions
- Launched PAM (Patient Activation Measure)
- Implemented access to SystemOne
- Developed the Refer All system
- Created Active Minds an online 6 week workshop
- Trained 38 new Health walk leads with over 1700 walks
- Created a new medieval herb garden at the Vineyard

### • Community Transport

- Drivers carried clients on 17,474 journeys
- Big increase in GS Community transport by 150%
- 26% increase in Door2Door
- Mobility Hub celebrated 2 years of service
- Launch of the new upcycled trains
- Bank holidays service launch
- Santa's special
- Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre – Trip Advisor Hall of Fame

### • Rural Development

- Became a partner in the new Eastern Community Homes Hub
- Undertook 7 parish level housing needs survey
- Led 25 Conservation Volunteer tasks
- Launched the Etonbury Green Wheel
- Greensand Country Landscape Partnership delivered:-
  - a. 200+ events
  - b. 5 new horse riding routes
  - c. Restored 5 walls
  - d. Installed 53 village signs

Tracy Cowan thanked everyone for listening and for putting up with the technical issues – she was hopeful that next year would be different. She thanked all BRCC staff for their continued hard work and commitment especially throughout this difficult time and hoped she would see everyone at next year's AGM.

## **9. Concluding remarks**

Paula Grayson gave huge thanks to the staff and managers of BRCC, as well as to the Board members for all their exceedingly good work in providing BRCC with support, suggestions, ideas and contacts. This ended the business meeting of the Annual General Meeting.

End of AGM 2020.