

**YMCA TAUNTON**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

1. Paul opened the meeting with a prayer

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Father Julian Laurence

**3. Present**

Nick Low (Chair), John Godley, Paul Harper, Vicki Phillips, Antony White, Nicola Telford, Ozzy Flowers, Clare Langley

**4. In attendance**

Megan Layfield

The Board introduced themselves to those in attendance.

**5. Election of Co-Opted Board Members**

There are no formal records that Antony White & Ozzy Flowers have been elected to the Board of Trustees. Additionally, Nicola Telford is serving as a co-opted Board Member. All need to be formally appointed to the Board. Proposed by NL seconded by VP.

Recognition of Past Service – Rev David Fayle who has retired. Fr Julian Laurence who has resigned after almost 25 years of service to the YMCA Board. A gift was available to present to Fr Julian but this will be carried out at a later date.

**6. Election of Officers**

There are no officers to elect at this meeting.

**6. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 15<sup>h</sup> May 2018 had been previously circulated and were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**7. Matters Arising from that meeting**

- Building – still waiting on action from Taunton Deane Borough Council
- Accountants have now been changed to Polden Accountants
- Fitness Suite is in process
- Lottery Bid for Community Survey was implemented and successful, data will be used for our Strategy

- Pool cues were provided by AW

## **8. Presentation of Annual Report – Chair’s Statement**

Good evening, I am pleased to be able to present to you our financial accounts for the year ending 31st August 2018. That’s quite a long time ago – a lot of water has passed under the bridge since then. With our new accountants, we will endeavour to report 2019s results a lot earlier.

As a charity, YMCA Taunton aims to encourage and nurture the physical, spiritual and intellectual development of young people within the Taunton Deane catchment area. That is our main purpose. To deliver these aims, the charity raises funds both through grants and through the innovative use of the facilities available to us here at our centre at Lisieux Way during the day and in the evenings. So our financial accounts only present half of the picture.

Unlike a PLC who only distribute their financial surplus, in the form of a dividend, we have to demonstrate that the funds that we raise are also spent wisely to support our key constituents ...that is...young people.

You might remember that in May 2017, we were awarded a 3-year lottery grant (£143,300). This award has helped us focus through 2018 on understanding the needs of young people in the Taunton Deane area, and increase the services we provide to meet these needs. The grant... for example... has enabled the association to subsidise the cost of providing a range of holiday activities which would have otherwise been unaffordable for a number of the young people attending these events.

Whilst we don’t have the finances or infrastructure to manage an accommodation portfolio, Clare and her team have supported young people across 26 different initiatives covering a range of activities. The board regularly monitor these activities as well as the financial performance of the association. These initiatives can be categorised into four broad areas:

- Support and Advice;
- Family work;
- Health and Wellbeing; and finally
- Training and Education

So as I mentioned last year, the award also enabled us to fund two business administration apprenticeships and I am pleased to say that Ben, last year’s apprentice is now back working with us and Larissa, our apprentice this year is doing a great job including amongst other things, our Taunton Totz project.

As I said, to deliver these projects we raise funds through grants and through the facilities available to us here, including a range of sporting activities, training, social and other recreational events. These activities are regularly supported and widen the scope of our reach within the community.

Our Pre-School also continues to flourish and is an important source of additional revenue. In June 2018, an inspection by Ofsted rated the quality of the early years provision as good, a result which the pre-school team, should rightly feel proud of.

Overall business turnover (including grants and donations) increased slightly over last year (£56,461), the National Lottery grant award, accounting for £49,800 of this increase. Operating costs have increased as a result of this additional work, but these were in line with our overall business strategy and covered by this grant award. Other costs have been kept to a manageable

level. The net result of the associations income generating activities was an operating surplus of £32,457 which was carried forward into our reserves.

In our report we acknowledge and thank our grant funding supporters and in particular:

- iwill / the National Lottery and the Dept of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport;
- Somerset Community Foundation;
- Taunton Deane Borough Council;
- Somerset County Council;
- YMCA England & Wales Movement Trust Fund;
- Heart Woodside Trust; and the
- Douglas Wood Charity

Finally, none of this would be achieved without the hard work of our employees, volunteers and board members, so I would like to thank them for their support over the last 12 months and for their continual hard work.

So thanks to all of you.

So what of the future:

Well even in rural Somerset, the challenges for young people are ever present.... for example:

- The pressures of social media influencing mental health and general resilience and male suicide in this area;
- County lines - Gangs in major cities such as Bristol exploiting young and vulnerable people sending them into our smaller towns across the region to sell and store drugs on their behalf;
- Increasing concern by the police of blades and weapons offences in Somerset; and
- Funding cuts which have reduced the facilities in the smaller communities throughout our county which has resulted in an increase in antisocial behaviour.

To address these things and many other issues throughout the coming year, I believe ...at the moment... our strengths lie in our people, both employees, volunteers and board members. I hope you will agree, at this time, it is through our people that we will provide the greatest impact and value rather than, as our colleagues in other associations have done, through more risky financial purchases.

We will therefore continue to work hard to fully maximise the rental opportunities that this building can generate and have had some success in that respect, such as:

- We now provide funded personal wellbeing sessions for homeless people;
- Taunton young carers group use our facilities; and
- In June we will be starting again to hold gymnastic classes

But we will also work hard to grow our people base with individuals with a range of different experiences which will generate the capabilities that we need moving forward and that will provide our unique selling points in the future.

So, in finishing, there are some exciting opportunities currently being developed by Clare,

- for example, in job readiness and employability skills for young adults with learning disabilities; and
- to provide a range of activities in communities beyond these walls.

I am sure that you would join with me to wish Clare good luck in these efforts.

Thank you for listening and do you have any questions.

## **9. Questions**

The Visionary Day will be on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> June

BM's took the opportunity to consult with Megan Layfield, Youth Representative about the youth provision.

**Q** – BM's asked what the most memorable activity she had experienced in the past year – the Orchard Project in Puriton and Money 4 Life.

**Q** – BM asked what was most useful about the activities provided - ML stated that qualifications at the end of a project were most useful to the young people – these can be linked to CV's.

The Enterprise Project was discussed and CL stated that it is intended to expand on this and hold 'Dragon's Den' style enterprise projects to build skills and provide experiences.

The Youth Forum was discussed and that the Taunton young people had been involved with Minehead and Taunton youth forums with a 3<sup>rd</sup> due to take place in the autumn 2019. There had also been a youth voice event in Street.

PH commented that it was great to see the young people from YMCA at Citizens UK (event at Richard Huish college) and their involvement in the project – producing films for broadcast at the event.

**Q** – BM's specifically asked if there were any needs the YMCA Taunton are not addressing for young people – ML stated not particularly.

BM's discussed that linking to local corporate partners during these projects may further assist with skills for the young people eg CV writing.

## **10. Approval of Accounts**

JPG proposed and VP seconded the approval of the accounts by Monahans for financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

The Board monitors reserves regularly and now have a formal Reserves Policy.

## **11. Appoint independent accountants**

The Board agreed to continue with Polden Accountants.

## **12. AOB**

John Godley stated that as Father Julian could not attend tonight he could deliver his thankyou card and gift to him. Clare Langley stated it would be better if we could arrange an alternative presentation – Megan Layfield suggested presenting it at the Youth BBQ

Meeting closed at 7.30pm