

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 28th June 2022**

1. Apologies for Absence

Joy Garland, Adam Locke

2. Present

Nick Low (Chair), Antony White, Zara Coulson, Dan Palmer, Clare Langley

3. Election of Co-Opted Board Members

Dan Palmer was elected to the Board. Proposed by NL seconded by AW.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the AGM held on 30th June 2021 had been previously circulated and were agreed, proposed by NL, seconded by AW and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising from that meeting

Periodic audit on Financial Accounts is not necessary for current turnover and existing financial reporting meets Charity Commission requirements. Discussion regarding Due Diligence. **Action - discussion at Board Meeting annually regarding periodic sampling if required at that time**

Card payments – Progressing online diary booking system and website improvements. Recognised that card payment device can be implemented separately – **Action - discussion at Board Meeting**

Staffing – Community Engagement Officer – EoI via HPC fund – like the idea want further info - discussion required

6. Presentation of Annual Report – Chair’s Statement

I am pleased to be able to present to you our financial accounts for the year ending 31st August 2021.

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.

YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.



Registered Charity No. 1152585

We are a Christian organisation, but welcome those from all religious faiths and of none.

As a small charity, we feel we are able to react quickly and are more in touch with our local community.

We provide opportunity and challenge to young people within a safe and supportive environment, through four key areas of work:

- Family work - We deliver a range of family services, including a preschool, soft play and holiday clubs.
- Support and advice - We support young people through difficult times through a variety of initiatives
- Training and education - We seek to support young people through education and skills-based training; and we
- Promote health and wellbeing across a range of programmes and individual tailored work

We also offer support to the wider community through recreational and other leisure time activities and by developing innovative, inclusive, and community-based solutions to social issues.

As a member of a National Federation however, we also benefit from the extensive lobbying work of the National Policy and Research Centre, and through the data this center is able to provide.

For the second year however, the erratic nature of the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns and social distancing restrictions, have had a significant impact on our ambitions.

- both in terms of the support we were able to offer our young people and;
- in our ability to raise funds to deliver both our charitable and organisational objectives

Despite these problems, our Preschool remained open throughout the year providing education to 55 children within our neighbourhood.

In addition, through 2 Preschool Apprenticeship places, we also provided our young people with practical experience and learning.

We also maintained a virtual link with 45 of our Young Carers, thereby helping to remove their social isolation throughout this period.

When restrictions eased in July and August, we were able to continue with our client facing work providing young people with 470 safe places to experience a variety of sports, craft and social activities during the school holidays.

In addition to our work with young people, the charity, were also able to provide over 26,000 meals to those in need during this time and distributed 110 seasonal gift boxes over the Christmas and Easter periods.

We also supported a local primary school, providing pupils with lunches for 4 weeks when they were let down by their normal catering contractor.

Despite the problems caused through the closure of our building at certain times of the year, the charities financial performance continues to remain steady.

All financial matters and policies are regularly reviewed by the board of trustees and our financial report was approved on 24th May 2022.

The impact of a full years covid restrictions on business operations resulted in overall business income including grants and donations for the year ending 31st August 2021 of £311,818.

This was a decrease on the previous last year (2020) of £43,538 or -12.25%.

Operating costs however were kept to a manageable level and as a result we carried forward to our reserves, a net operating surplus of £36,339.

So what of the future:

Even in rural Somerset the challenges for young people are ever present and we will continue to develop a range of Youth Work projects.

These will focus specifically on:

- Supporting under-represented groups;
- Mental Health; and in
- Strengthening our Family Support work and providing social support activities, such as a Talking Café, Community Cook and Toddler, and Knit and Natter groups.

We will continue to make improvements to the structure of our building – the Front elevation work and refurbishment of Social Area are an example of this. We also aim to improve general accessibility across all of our amenities and changing facilities.

In addition, we will add to our facilities this year

- A Fitness Suite;
- A Music & Media Recording Studio; and an
- Upgrade to our Kitchen

And through the resources available to our preschool team

- An Educational Garden
- An SEN sensory room and;
- An improved external play surface

Training will also be undertaken for an additional member of staff to extend our Forest School provision.

To maximise the effectiveness of these new Facilitates our people are an important conduit.

They add value and provide the greatest impact to our work.

I would therefore like to recognise and thank all of our team that is:

- Our employees,
- Our volunteers and;
- Our Trustees.

for their hard work and support they have provided over the last 12 months.

I know the impact of the pandemic has been particularly challenging and meant that this year has been exceptionally difficult.

I am proud of the way, despite the operational and financial difficulties, they have remained positive throughout, enabling us to deliver our charitable and organisational goals.

I am confident with their help; the charity can continue to grow over the coming years, broadening the scope of our work to bring meaningful change to the children and young people in our catchment area.

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

7. Presentation of Accounts

The accounts were presented and accepted

8. Questions

Q – Digital presence – how is this operated? Need to recognise that this is an important part of growth . **Action - Objective that Year 2022/3 to be the Year of Digital**

Q – Membership model needs review **Action this is currently being implemented**

Q - *Received in writing from a member* - Positive comments about the effort made by the staff and observation that this should be recognised. Response from the Board - that staff efforts have been recognised and rewarded accordingly within the operating parameters of our Charity. **Action - Chair to write response / personal meeting in reply to the Writer**

9. Appoint independent accountants

The Board agreed to continue with Polden Accountants

Discussion re change of accountants on a cyclical basis. Current practice every 10 years for financial services – **Action review at next AGM**

Meeting closed 20.49 hrs