

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 18th June 2024
8.30pm**

1. Apologies for Absence

Zara Coulson

2. Present

Nick Low (Chair), Anna Winch, Gari Le Piquet (remotely), Clare Langley

3. Election of Co-Opted Board Members

Anna Winch & Gari Le Piquet were voted on as Board Members

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the AGM held on 28th July 2023 had been previously circulated and were agreed; proposed by ZC in advance of the meeting, seconded by NL and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising from that meeting

There were no matters arising

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 2023.:

Welcome to the Annual report for YMCA Taunton

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity YMCA Taunton for the year ended 31st August 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities, preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 (effective 1st January 2022)). The legal name of the charity is: YMCA Taunton. YMCA Taunton, originally founded in 1855, is now constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This status was established in 2013 and registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (CCEW) with charity number 1152585. The trustees of the charity are all individuals.

Our purpose - What We Do

We are a Christian organisation but welcome all religious faiths and beliefs. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, when reviewing the charity's objectives and in planning future activities for the year. YMCA Taunton aims to encourage and nurture the physical, spiritual and intellectual development of young people within the Taunton Deane constituency so they can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

As a small charity, we feel we are more in touch with our local community and able to react quickly when situations and problems arise. As a member of a National Federation however, we also benefit from the extensive lobbying work carried out by the National Policy and Research Centre and through access to data that this centre is able to provide.

How we make a difference - How our charity's performance has influenced the lives of young people

To achieve our objectives, we focus on providing 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 and holiday clubs.
- Support and advice - We support young people during difficult times through a variety of initiatives.
- Training and education - We seek to support young people through education and skills-based training; and
- Promote health and well-being across a range of programmes and individual tailored work.

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

The YMCA Taunton has facilitated over 19,000 engagements with young people, which included in excess of 970 youth club attendances and 45 preschoolers educated over the course of the year. Our youth team have delivered open access youth services, supporting 47 individual young carers, and provided 557 safe spaces with engaging activities for young people during school holidays throughout the year. In addition the team delivered a creative music and media project for young carers with Bath Philharmonia and two cricket coaching programmes ('All Stars' and 'Dynamics') for young people with Somerset Cricket Foundation.

Hosting at the Centre included fortnightly Talking Cafes with the Community Council of Somerset (CCS) providing support and signposting to the Community. NHS Health Coaches also used our facilities to deliver health and wellbeing guidance and activities, and Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP) provided fun and informal rounders games particularly aimed at mums, grandmothers, families and carers in our sports hall.

In addition to over 35 sporting activities hosted at the centre, our 2 community cooks assisted by one volunteer chef have provided more than 860 hot meals to children.

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

Our Food service provision continued post COVID with a free to access food parcel service providing over 16,000 meals to those in need.

Fundraising activities during the year.

To deliver our core objectives, YMCA Taunton raise funds through a range of activities and room hire, such as, venue hire for training courses and sporting activities, prize bingo, raffles and events. In addition, our Pre-School also provides an important source of additional revenue.

Grants and Donations are also an important source of income. In addition to our 6 corporate partners (ASDA, Co-op, Lidl, Marks and Spencer, Sainsburys, B&Q) we would also like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors for their financial assistance in funding a variety of different initiatives:

- TK Maxx
- Somerset Community Foundation Cost of Living Fund
- Somerset Community Foundation Cost of Living Fund - Foodbanks
- Sainsburys
- Marks & Spencer
- Somerset West & Taunton Council Local Lottery Community Funding
- YMCA South-West Trust Fund

Overall business income (including operational grants and donations) for the year ending 31st August 2023 of £311,666. Included in our results for the previous year (2021/22) were grants received for our major building renovation initiative (£164,318) and the Covid Kickstarter program (£13,498) which were not replicated in this year's financial results. These grants should be taken into consideration when comparing our results against the previous year's overall business income, which showed a decrease of £24,906 or -9.3%. Operating costs were kept to a manageable level and as a result, the association's income generating activities, produced a net operating surplus carried forward to our reserves of £2,840.

Our financial strategy has focused both on developing income to provide our youth services and also upgrade our facilities to ensure that our centre will continue to deliver community services for many years to come.

Examples of improvements:

- Mains electrics upgrade: New fuseboards and wiring alterations
- Replacement LED lighting to the Rowlands Room
- Replacement of upstairs flooring
- Front elevation external painting
- New Preschool external signage
- Replacement of Preschool external play-surface
- New Preschool construction learning zone

Financial Management

All financial matters and policies are regularly reviewed by managers and the board of trustees and we continue to look for opportunities to increase our income and manage cash flow. The trustees consider the financial performance by the charity during the year to have been Satisfactory. The association has clear and robust financial policies in relation to expenditure and the security of the associations assets. All financial matters and policies are regularly reviewed by the board of trustees. This financial report was approved by the board of trustees on 18th June 2024.

Reserves policy

YMCA Taunton's Reserves Policy sets out to maintain sufficient levels of reserves to enable normal operating activities to continue over a period of up to 12 months should a shortfall in income occur, and to take account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time. Excluded from the Reserves Policy is income associated with Endowment and Restricted Funds. In order to make a judgement on the level of reserves required, the trustees have considered the risks in respect of expenditure, unrestricted income, where appropriate restricted income and where funds can only be realised by the disposal of a fixed asset. Also taken into consideration are any external identified potential major risks to income and expenditure. Our reserves policy is reviewed each year and reserves are regularly monitored by trustees. The Board are committed to building reserves up which currently stand as:

- Restricted Revenue Funds: £97,435
- Endowment Revenue Funds: £105
- Designated Funds: £90,111
- Funds available for the general purposes of the charity excluding fixed assets:
- Unrestricted Revenue Funds: £204,899

Governance and Trustees responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that their financial statements comply with regulations made under the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board of Trustees is made up of individuals who live locally and have expressed a desire to further the work of the YMCA, being in sympathy with its aims and objectives. Trustees meet regularly throughout the year to review the progress of the association in meeting its charitable objectives. The association is committed to attracting new board members and are actively seeking to increase the pool of Governance Members through which future trustees will be sought.

Finally, I would like to recognise and thank our team, that is, our employees, our volunteers and our trustees for their continued hard work and the support they have provided over the last 12 months. As a charity we rely on your hard work and the support you give us throughout the year. We have a fantastic facility, but it is your efforts that make the building the hub of our community. I am confident with your help, the charity can continue to grow over the coming years, broadening the scope of our work with the children and young people within our catchment area.

Thank you for your efforts.

Dr Nick Low

7. Presentation of Accounts

The accounts were presented and accepted

7. Questions

There were no questions

9. Appoint independent accountants

The Board agreed to continue with Polden Accountants

Meeting closed 9.00pm