YMCA TAUNTON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 23rd JUNE 2026
7.00pm

1. Apologies for Absence

Gari Le Piquet

2. Present

Nick Low (Chair), Anna Winch, Zara Coulson, Sally Pitkin, Clare Langley

3. Election of Co-Opted Board Members

Sally Pitkin was voted to join the Board

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the AGM held on 17th June 2025 had been previously circulated and were agreed; proposed by NL, seconded by ZC 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 2025:

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 2025. 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

YMCA Taunton aims to encourage and nurture the physical, spiritual and intellectual development of young people within the Taunton Deane catchment area. We are a Christian organisation but welcome all religious faiths and beliefs. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, in managing the activities of the charity.

As a voluntary Christian organisation YMCA Taunton seeks to transform communities within the borough of Taunton Deane, so that children and young people, 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.
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.

The year saw the continued delivery of our transformational Youth Investment Fund programme following the award of £2.1 million funding through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. This investment, delivered across multiple years, has enabled significant improvements to our facilities and services and will provide lasting benefits for young people in our community for many years to come.

This funding has enabled us to renovate our facility, adding an extra 230m2 of space which will enable us to extend our youth service offer to over 270 young people per week. The refurbishment however, did create major operational issues which impacted the level and depth of the service we were able to provide our local community. Despite the disruption bought about by the building work throughout the year, the charity was still able to deliver 474 sport sessions with young people through for instance Judo, Parkour, and Kickboxing. Over 1500 interactions also occurred through attendance at our youth club and during holiday club activities. In addition, the charity has interacted with young carers on 603 occasions and provided 340 Safe Holiday spaces. Our Preschool provided early years education for 49 young children, and space was allocated to partner organisations to facilitate 742 hrs of alternative education and support for young adults with learning disabilities. To support our local community through difficult times, 860 hot meals were provided to children in the local area together with over 340 children's breakfasts. Our community pantry also provided 7334 free meals together and 2498 “take and make” meal solutions.

Raising funds to support charitable activities
To deliver our core objectives, to support and nurture the development of young people, YMCA Taunton raises funds through grants and room hire and through the income generated from a range of 24 different Sports and Fitness Classes including Badminton, Basketball, Football, Parkour, Judo and Kickboxing. In addition our new climbing wall will be available from winter 2025. Activities to improve strength, balance and flexibility, focused predominantly on adults over 50, are also provided including Aerobics, Short Tennis and Table Tennis.

Overall business income, excluding the grant provided through the Youth Investment Fund (£1,623,607), for the year ending 31st August 2025 was £369,202. This was an increase on the previous year, (excluding the 2024 grant from the Youth Investment Fund - £227,922) of £47,706 or 14.84%. Operating costs were kept to manageable levels, however the cost to provide our charitable services whilst conducting a major refit, resulted in a slight short fall (loss) in the year of £2574. Notwithstanding this small deficit, unrestricted funds increased during the year and the charity maintained a strong cash position.

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who supported YMCA Taunton through fundraising activities during the year. From local businesses and community partners to those attending events, making donations or contributing through collection pots, every contribution has helped us continue our work with children, young people and families across our community. We are particularly grateful to Pophams Saddlery, Arty Rugs, Bargain Buys Taunton, its customers and all those who supported our bingo events and other fundraising initiatives.

Along with fund-raising activities, Grants and Donations are also an important source of income.

In addition to our 6 corporate partners (ASDA, Marks and Spencer, Lidl, Sainsburys, Morrisons and Co-op) we would also like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors for their financial assistance in funding a variety of different initiatives:

- Kings College
- Pophams Saddlery
- Legacy Paul Harper
- Somerset Community Foundation
- Ridge & Partners
- YMCA England & Wales
- Tesco Stronger Starts
- High Sherriff
- Taunton Town Council
- Somerset Council
- Citizens
- YMCA England & Wales Cadent Gas Distribution Network

- Youth Investment Fund funded by the UK Government. With thanks to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the fund's delivery partners: Social Investment Business

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. Despite the significant increase in activity associated with the Youth Investment Fund programme, the charity remained financially stable throughout the year. Cash balances remained strong, unrestricted funds increased and the Board remains confident in the charity's ability to continue as a going concern whilst pursuing future growth and development opportunities. This financial report was approved by the board of trustees at the Annual General Meeting on 23rd June 2026.

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. Whilst current free reserves remain below the Board's long-term aspiration, they continue to provide a solid foundation from which to manage risk and support future development. The Board are committed to building reserves up which currently stand as:

- Restricted Revenue Funds: £55,508
- Endowment Revenue Funds: £105
- Designated Funds: £93,035
- Funds available for the general purposes of the charity:
  - Unrestricted Revenue Funds: £243,000
  - Including Free Reserves £162,556

Volunteers Contribution

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the many volunteers who supported YMCA Taunton. During the year, 29 volunteers contributed more than 1,300 hours of their time to the charity. Using the National Living Wage applicable during the reporting period, this represents a contribution valued at over £16,000.

Trustees collectively contributed many additional hours throughout the year through governance, strategic planning, project oversight and attendance at meetings, all on a voluntary basis and without remuneration.

Our volunteers bring a wealth of skills, experience and commitment to the organisation, helping us to enhance our services, strengthen our governance and extend our reach within the community. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank every volunteer for their generosity, dedication and continued support.

I would also like to recognise the commitment of our staff team, many of whom willingly contribute additional time to support events and activities throughout the year. Their dedication to YMCA Taunton and the people we serve is greatly appreciated.

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. These records 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 goals. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and in planning future activities for the year. The association will continue in their efforts to increase income and manage cash flow, whilst maximising the impact of activities on the young people in the Taunton Deane area, and support residents of all ages within the local community.

Whilst the investment provided will significantly increase the scope and reach of our charitable activities, the refurbishment process would not have progressed without the support of the team, our employees, our volunteers and trustees. Managing to maintain the service we provided was not easy and your hard work, understanding and perseverance throughout the year was very much appreciated. With this work behind us, with your help the charity will continue to grow bringing meaningful change to young people within our catchment area. Thank you for your efforts.

Dr Nick Low

7. Presentation of Accounts

The accounts were presented and accepted.

The Board acknowledged the YIF project, the value of the funding and impact of operating within it. Finances and charitable work need to be viewed in light of those effects. Grateful thanks to the CEO & Team for their hard work and efforts.

8. Questions

Q - ZC asked about the level of Reserves
A – CL stated Free Reserves: £162,556 (approximately 5 months' operating expenditure)

9. Appoint independent accountants
The Board agreed to continue with Polden Accountants

Meeting closed 8.00pm