

ALFORD CORN EXCHANGE COMMUNITY GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE ALFORD CORN EXCHANGE 7.30PM FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2022

Present: H Dewick-Eisele (Chairman), N O'Farrell (Vice-Chair), J Hynes, A Taylor, J McHamilton, L Arrowsmith, L Laquaniello, S Devereux

Total of 20 members of public, including members of the Alford Corn Exchange Group and Cllr Richard Quantrell

In attendance: A Hill

J Hynes welcomed all those present

1. To record attendance and receive apologies

Apologies were received from Neil and Pam Calvert, Lynne LeVoi and Michel Ducos.

2. Approve the minutes of the previous AGM held on 10th September 2021

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the minutes as presented be approved.

3. Receive the annual audited accounts for the years ending 31st March 2022

Copies were made available to all present and noted. Thanks were given to Bob Stephenson for auditing the accounts and to Linda Croft for preparing them and for providing book keeping services for free throughout the year.

Mention was made to the Ukrainian appeal which was held in the hall and for which £7,000 was raised. These monies were paid to the DEC via the Corn Exchange accounts

The accounts were approved

4. Receive the Trustees' Annual Report and Update from the Chairman

Last year we finally saw normality restored after the pandemic and it was great to see the hall used as planned. It was a very different year to the previous one where we had been impacted both by the pandemic and by renovations.

Over the last year the Corn Exchange has become one of the main focus points in the town which has been nice to see, the 1940s being a good example of this.

It has also become self-supporting over the last year with a decent income which has exceeded the expenditure, and we have been holding the balance steady since last year.

We had two new Trustee members at the last AGM – Lizzie Arrowsmith and Lucy Laquaniello – and as a result we now are able to offer events for a wide range of age groups.

Traditionally the Corn Exchange has provided for the over 50s however now we are also offering events for youth ages.

Over the past year we've had theatre events, bingo, Friday cafes, dance groups, bowling etc. It is also promising to see external theatre and comedy providers hiring the hall which reduces pressure on the group to organize all the events.

Thanks were made to Andrew Hill, for all his work as the Manager, and Tony Robinson, the caretaker, for looking after the hall so well. Thanks were also expressed to all the volunteers, who are the heart of the centre; we couldn't run these events without them.

Although Janet Taylor stepped down as Trustee last year she has continued to work hard for the Corn Exchange and thanks were expressed to Janet for this.

Harry announced that he is stepping down as Chairman after 8 years but will remain as a

Trustee. He said that it had been a fantastic experience and great to be part of a team that has achieved so much.

Going forward we are looking to invest in a new software system.

We are also looking to undertake some work in the kitchen and bar area with a new boiler and air conditioning.

Challenges for the upcoming year will be around rising energy costs; we will have to see how this impacts us and whether as a result we need to increase any hire rates.

Finally Harry expressed his thanks for everyone's support

5. Receive the Vice Chair's Report.

Nick noted that we had been spending some time recently looking at the acoustics and the lighting, and a way forward had been agreed. We are planning on installing acoustic panels on the walls, and replacing the lighting with LEDs and controls panels. We are currently in the process of applying for a grant to fund these.

Lizzie Arrowsmith gave an update on the Youth Arts events. A Trustee Sub-Committee meets separately to determine what the Corn Exchange can provide for the youth audience.

Examples of youth events over the last year include an acrylic pour workshop, a theatre production, a Day of the Dead embossing session and an easter workshop. With support from the town council and with receipt of match funding we have been able to support children whose parents are unable to finance such events.

Upcoming events include a poppy workshop and a two week lino printing workshop.

We have been selected for the Co-Op Community Champion and Tesco Community grants which will help to finance future events

Andy Taylor gave an update on the events that take place via Live and Local, an Arts Council funded group. Earlier this year the Corn Exchange have had George Egg and Ashley Hutchings perform at the hall. Since the pandemic audience numbers have been down with around 35 attendees at each however feedback from both events has been favourable. A future event taking place on the 21st October is Songs of the Dambusters (unrelated to Live & Local).

6. Retirement (and re-election) of one third of the trustees.

John Hynes, election officer explained that as per the constitution 1/3 of the trustees were required to stand down. H Dewick-Eisele retired as Chairman. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept his retirement. It was further proposed, seconded and unanimously voted that he be re-elected as a Trustee. N O'Farrell retired as Vice-Chairman. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept his retirement. It was further proposed, seconded and unanimously voted that he be re-elected as Chairman. J Hynes retired as a Trustee. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept his retirement. It was further proposed, seconded and unanimously voted that he be re-elected as a Vice-Chairman. S Devereux has decided to retire as Trustee and the Group expressed their thanks for all the work she has done for the CX. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept her retirement.

J Hynes was delighted to say that there are two new Trustees who have put themselves up for election – June and Den Husband, who many people will recognise from their work organising the successful 1940s weekends. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

voted that they be elected.

7. Any other business appropriate for an AGM.

Janet Taylor expressed everyone's thanks to Harry for all the work he has put into the Corn Exchange over the last 8 years. They have worked closely over this time and the Corn Exchange owes him a debt of gratitude.

Janet presented Harry with a gift as a token of our thanks for his endeavours as Chair

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.02pm

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