

# ECHO AGM minutes

10 December 2021

## 1. Present:

**Board of Trustees:** Bev Davies, Rose Hunt, Chris Blum, Blaise White, Caroline Arthur, Joy House

**Patron:** Nat Hone

**Members of the public:** Cllr John Rumsey, Fiona Ritchie

**Staff:** Mike Cook, Maggie Percy, Rebecca Tabram, Nick Baker, Cath Baker, Louise Millard,

**Participants:** Tim Dowse, Matt Jones, Jack Butler, Nick Haines, Jade Millward, Jill Tarling, Marianne Simpson, Tim Simpson, Nick Burt

## Groups:

- Friday Club – Beth Jarvis and PA, Richard Crook, Steve Levett, Donovan Lewis, Paul Hughes, Caroline Collins, Lindsey Evans, Lisa Whitmore and PA, volunteers Ann Tether and Edmund Proctor, staff member Lucy Tisdale, family member Rosemary Levett
- The Priory Centre – Oliwia Barczewska, Melvyn Gardner, Erica Hammond, Paul Fletcher, Louise Cruickshank, Anne Chadwick, Ian Rogers. Staff members were Ian Waterfield, Amber Davies and Terry Miles
- Eaton Barn – Steve Taylor, Sean Perks, Archie Palmer, Fern Kinsey, Lewis Jones, Russell Ballard, volunteer Richard Williams and staff members Bev Waterfield and Sarah Powell
- About Face – Laahn Saunders, Frances McClellan, Dan Harvey, Tracy Crum, Laura Walne, staff members Jess MacKenzie, Cheryl Hewitt, Letty Flynn.
- Friday Lifelinks – Laura Walne, Hugh Phillips, Julie Richardson, staff members Juliette Stephenson and Angela Ayliffe
- LSSC – Fran Porter and PA, Mand Hamlin and PA, John Stuchbery, Jason Stuchbery, volunteer Joy House and staff member Penny Weir
- Weaving - Fran Best, Kevin Stuchbery, Steph Hooper, Simon Harris, Rebecca Downes, staff members Maggie Percy and Roz Johnson
- Other members online

## 2. Apologies:

Joanna Hilditch, Jesse Norman, Edward Hartley, Jenny Bartlett, Trish Marsh, Bill Wiggin, Denise Kerwood, Pauline Crockett from Herefordshire Council

## 3. Introduction

Nick Baker introduced the meeting and ran through the housekeeping items. The meeting will be recorded and everyone agreed.

Bev introduced the meeting from the Board of Trustees.

Caroline Arthur welcomed everyone from each group, those people from LSSC and those joining from home.

#### **4. Minutes of the 2020 meeting**

The minutes from the 2020 AGM were put on our website for everyone to see and we asked our members if they were happy with them. They voted to let us know what they thought.

**We have counted the votes and everyone agreed that they were a true record.** Thank you Kay to taking the minutes for us last year and thank you Cath for taking them this year.

#### **5. ECHO annual review**

Mike Cook shared some highlights from the ECHO 2021 annual review, accompanied by a slide show. He then gave a big thank you to the staff, volunteers and participants for their hard work this year.

#### **6. Treasurer's report and appointment of auditor**

Mike Cook gave a presentation about ECHO's money. He compared the money ECHO has to a snowman. Starting from the bottom are the reserves – and in the bank is £259,543. Next are the fees and this is what the participants pay for our activities. Grants is money from organisations like the lottery. Last year we raised around £920,000.

How do we spend it? There are:

- General costs – materials to help run projects
- Buildings and services
- Salaries of staff including support staff

We spent £787,024 last year – we spent less money than we brought in so our reserves increased to £362,271. It's important to build our reserves and we will be building on that next year.

**We counted the votes and it was agreed to use Godfrey Wilson as the ECHO auditor again**

**We counted the votes and the Reports and Accounts were agreed by the members**

#### **7. Election of Trustees**

Each year one third of the board of trustees must stand down – Mand Hamblin and Joy House are standing down this year and both have agreed to stand again. Matt Jones and John Bradford are new nominations. **All have been voted on to the board this time.**

## **8. Chief Officer 2021 report**

Mike Cook gave his 2021 report. He thanked the staff who have worked tirelessly – many people only see the projects when they are running, but there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes. Many volunteers help our projects deliver additional activities, and the trustees have helped guide ECHO through this difficult time. Participants have followed the COVID rules and brought their enthusiasm to all the projects. We made a mistake by cancelling Yam Jams but we have listened to people's views and reinstated it. It has been harder to bring in money this year but we have money put by in reserves. We were worried when the Priory Centre was put up for sale but pleased that Leominster Town Council can take it over, Herefordshire Council is reviewing how it runs day services and in their recent survey 102 out of 125 responses were from people with learning disabilities who preferred in person services rather than online. Next year we would like to improve projects and doing more fundraising - 2 or 3 staff will be throwing themselves out of a plane in June! We would like to improve how we work with families and carers.

Finally Mike asked that everyone take a LFT before you come back in January.

## **9. Vote on accounts and mem and arts**

ECHO has to have a Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is a legal document that says how ECHO is run, organised and owned. We made some changes to it and the changes need to be agreed by ECHO members.

We made an easy read copy and sent it out to our members and put it on the ECHO website. We asked our members to vote to accept the changes.

**We have counted the votes and the Memorandum and Articles of Association have been accepted.**

## **10. Vote of thanks**

## **11. Thanks from Caroline**

## **12. Signed song finale**

Meeting ended at 14:45. Networking ended at 15:00