**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of**

**ECHO for Extra Choices in Herefordshire**

**Held at The Leominster Sports & Social Club Hall, Leominster**

**On Thursday 9th December 2022**

**Attendance**

81 Members and Guests were present including Nat Hone, His Majesty’s Deputy Lieutenant of Herefordshire and Patron of ECHO; Councillor Sebastian Bowen, Chairperson of Herefordshire Council and Councillor Trish Marsh, Mayor of Leominster. Apologies for absence were received from 14 people – see attached list.

Jody Gorle called the meeting open.

**Welcome and introduction**

1. Matt Jones, Trustee welcomed everybody to the meeting.
2. Bev Davies, Trustee gave a Health & Safety briefing.
3. Nick Burt, Rep Group Member read out the list of apologies.

**Minutes of last year’s meeting**

The minutes from 2021 were put on our website and copies were available at the meeting. It was proposed by Marianne Simpson and seconded by Lyndsey MacMillian that the minutes were a true record. The vote was carried unanimously.

**ECHO’s Annual Review**

The Annual Review is available to view on our website. There were a few printed copies at the meeting and a form to complete if anyone wanted a copy emailed or a paper copy.

**Treasurer’s report and appointment of Auditor**

Mike Cook, Chief Officer told us about the annual accounts with a powerpoint presentation featuring the indoor skydiving participants to demonstrate income going up and down.

We started last year with £362,271 in the bank. We receive income from fees for the activities we run, grants, donations and fundraising events. After expenditure our end reserves are £292,281.

The management accounts for 2021-2022 were put on our website for everyone to see and there were copies available at the meeting. It was proposed by Rebecca Downs and seconded by Bev Davies that the Management accounts be accepted. The vote was carried unanimously.

Godfrey Wilson Ltd are our financial examiners of our annual accounts. It was proposed by Jody Gorle and seconded by Richard Hyde-Smith that Godfrey Wilson Ltd. be accepted as the auditors for next year for ECHO and the vote was carried unanimously.

**Election of trustees**

Mand Hamblin, Trustee explained the process for the election of trustees. Every year 25% of trustees have to stand down. This year it was the turn of Bev Davies, Jason Stuchbery and Blaise White. All three trustees agreed to stand again. They all stood up in turn and the meeting voted as follows:

Bev Davies – Proposed by Carl Stuchbery and seconded by Nick Burt. The vote was carried unanimously.

Jason Stuchbery – Proposed by Louis Baker and seconded by Kevin Stuchbery. The vote was carried unanimously.

Blaise White – Proposed by Jack Butler and seconded by Fran Best. The vote was carried unanimously.

There was one nomination – Jeremy Gray. Jeremy was asked to stand and wave to the meeting. Jeremy has been observing our meetings for a year. It was proposed by Tracy Crum and seconded by Dan Wall that Jeremy Gray be elected as a Trustee. The vote was carried unanimously.

**Chief Officer’s Report**

Mike Cook, Chief Officer welcomed everybody and commented on how nice it was to meet in person again after having online meetings for the last 2 years. He thanked all the staff, volunteers and supporters who help make ECHO such a wonderful place. He reflected on the people who sadly are no longer with us, and were a big part of ECHO – Brian Richards, Peter Bladon and Donovan Lewis.

Money continues to be an issue, but the good news is we have enough reserves and have plans in place. We are currently working on our 3 year plan, which will help guide the organisation to 2026. Mike welcomed people’s thoughts on this and to share ideas of what ECHO might be like as we develop them.

There will be lots of fundraising events and we will be concentrating on Wellbeing.

Our 5 year lottery project comes to end next year and has been very successful. We are currently working on the next bid and how we might develop and build on the programme we are running.

**Vote of thanks**

Matt Jones, Trustee thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged everyone to stay and dance and catch up with friends.

Other Matters

During the meeting there were videos and performances from various ECHO projects

* Rep Group video
* Jack Butler – A poem
* The Priory Centre video
* Hereford Projects and Storytelling Videos
* Presentation of Fundraising certificates
* Radio ECHO video
* About Face : performance of The Lost Words Blessing

There were display stands situated around the hall from ECHO projects as below:

* Weaving
* Sports and Social
* Wellbeing
* Eaton Barn
* Consultation and 3 year plan
* Clever Betsy
* About Face
* Fundraising
* Rose Tinted Rags

**Apologies received for the AGM 9th December 2022**

Sarah de Rohan

Father Guy Coles

Jo Hilditch

Bill Jackson

Viv Melia

Joe Cocker

Denise Kerwood

Nic Bullock

Sue Lindsay

Jonathan Forsyth

Peter Crum

Tessa Minton

David Cross

Carol Cross