

POPPLETON COMMUNITY TRUST

Registered Charity No. 523984

25th Annual General Meeting

15th September 2022

MINUTES

Present:

Robin Tomlinson (RT)	Chairman
Allie Campbell (AC)	Trustee
John Craven (JC)	Trustee
Mick Crome (MC)	Trustee
Allen Jones (AJ)	Trustee
Emma Lawer (EL)	Trustee
David Richardson (DR)	Treasurer
Warwick Spencer (WS)	Trustee
Mike Walter (MW)	Trustee
Bob Wood (BW) Trustee	
Beth Kirkham (BK) Centre Manager	

Minutes: Marina Robson Trust Secretary

1. Apologies

June Hardy (JH)	Trustee
Gemma Lawson (GL)	Trustee
Trevor Lawson (TL)	Trustee
Tim Bowers (TB)	Trustee

2. To approve the Minutes of the 24th AGM held on Thursday 30th September 2021

The minutes were approved by BW and seconded by MW.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. To receive the Treasurer's Report
DR presented his report.

The Year to March 2022:

Covid was a factor in the first part of this financial year - there were no fundraising events. The hire income bounceback has been very positive; there has been lots of room bookings from community groups. As a result, corporate hire has dropped off. Fundraising has now started again, with the Scarecrow Trail in September plus Bonfire Night, amongst others. The Poppleton Social is heavily used, which is a good, regular source of income.

Grants:

The Centre received some grants in the past - Covid support grants, for example, to help support employment costs, plus reopening grants, as well as donations and legacies. It has been a very positive year from the point of view of income.

Expenditure:

There was a greater focus on ensuring the Centre is a Covid-safe environment, which included more regular cleaning, which pushed up the cost.

Balance Sheet:

The new curtain for the Sports Hall was a big expenditure. The key thing, however, is the cash balances - the Centre is in a very positive position, as we have built up the reserves, as per the reserves policy - that is to ensure the Centre can continue to function for up to 6 months if necessary.

Member Clubs:

Towards the end of the last financial year, Covid restricted some activities - for example Junior Football, and the Beer Festival did not take place. All Clubs made a small deficit for the period, but have maintained positive cash balances. This year, events are back up and running; there is a better year to come for all the Clubs. However, in terms of cricket, there was no prospect of developing the club, so cash balances were returned to the original funders in March.

Current Year To Date - the Centre:

The Centre is at breakeven at the moment. Hire income is coming through well. There are some income sources which we haven't yet received, for example Bonfire Night. A lot of the premises costs are still high, plus the price of electricity has gone up a lot. The second part of the year will be much more positive - the Centre will have a good surplus for the year.

Outlook:

Hire income is going very well - there is a lot of demand to hire rooms. Bonfire Night, Scarecrow Trail and the Halloween Trail will be good sources of income.

5. To receive the Chairman's Report
RT presented his report.

Footpath Project:

A new footpath has been put in place, on the side of the driveway, opposite the playground, to make it safer for pedestrians to access the Centre. The contractors are yet to put the resin finish on top, and a decorative fence around the front of the Centre - this will happen in a few weeks' time. Until then, the new footpath will remain closed. This venture was partly-funded by City of York Council and the Parish Councils.

Grounds Maintenance and the Centre Lease:

The Trust agreed to take the lease with City of York Council, when they had brought the grounds up to scratch. However, CYC didn't cut the hedges etc, and have now given a timescale of 12 months, in which the catch-up work will happen. The new lease is expected to be with the Trust within the next few weeks.

Changes in the Constitution:

BW outlined why it had been decided to make changes to the Constitution.

This was recommended by York CVS, as the original 1998 Constitution was outdated - it currently states that the Trustees are responsible for the debts of the Centre. The Charity Commission recommended that we change to a 'charitable incorporated organisation', a foundation model, where only the Trustees can vote.

BW went on to explain that this will give the Trust a greater regulatory oversight. There are going to be 6 'first charity' trustees - RT, DR, WS, AJ, EL and BW. All will have a limited period of tenure, some of which overlap, so that all of them can't leave the Trust at the same time. When a first charity trustee comes to the end of their tenure, they can be reinstated, with the agreement of the other first trustees. As soon as the Constitution is in place, further trustees will be invited to join, initially from the current cohort. Sports Clubs will become 'associate members' - they will be members of the Trust Committee, but won't have voting rights, as is the situation now. This proposal was agreed by those present.

RT then gave formal thanks to the following:

- Marina Robson, Secretary to the Trust Committee.
- Helen Williams, who is working well with JC and BK, putting bids together.
- Louise and Sam Gallagher and their team in the Poppleton Social - Simon Moss is now the Manager of the bar and cafe.
- Trustees - all work very hard on various issues - the support from everyone is really appreciated.
- Parish Councils - the Trust goes to them for funding every year, and they always help. Funding bodies like to see support given by local organisations.
- Beth and Barry, at the Centre - they both work very hard at the Centre, and Beth has been instrumental in welcoming Ukrainian families to the village; there are currently 17 families here with host families.

6. Election of Chair

AJ announced that RT has offered to stand as Chair for another year. There were no offers made to stand against him.

RT was proposed as Chair by MW, and seconded by BW.

All Trustees, and the Secretary, were re-elected for another year, which means there are currently no vacancies for Trustees.

Thanks were formally given to RT, and wishes of good luck were given for the forthcoming year.

7. Election of Village Representatives

8. Any other general matters to be drawn to the attention of the Executive Committee
Nothing raised.

Note: All inhabitants of the villages of Nether and Upper Poppleton aged 18 years or over are entitled to vote at the elections together with any adults residing in the area of benefit of the Centre who are members of one of the organisations that regularly use the facilities.