

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF FRIENDS OF THE DALES  
HELD ONLINE  
ON SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 2:15 P.M.**

**Present**

Bruce McLeod (Chair), 8 Directors/Trustees (Mark Corner, Wilf Fenten, Ian Harrison, Ken Humphris, Dilip Mysorekar, Malcolm Petyt, Nancy Stedman, Marion Temple) and Chris Nash, Chair of Dales and Bowland CIC and 11 Members and 1 Staff (Ann Shadrake, Executive Director).

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Bruce McLeod (BML) Chair introduced himself as Chair of the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 37<sup>th</sup> AGM.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Louise Brown, Kyle Blue, Ann Cryer, Ray Francis, Chris Hartley, Julie Martin, Martin Pearson, Bernard Peel, Colin Speakman, Fleur Speakman, Tony Smith, Mike Stephenson

**3. Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> AGM held on Saturday 21 September 2019**

BML asked members to approve as a true record the Minutes of the Thirty Sixth Annual General Meeting of the charity, held at Long Preston Village Hall on Saturday 21 September 2019.

Proposed: Nancy Stedman      Seconded: Wilf Fenten

Carried unanimously with 1 abstention

Minutes approved as a true record (after minor amends requested by CN) and signed by AS, pp for Chair.

**4. Matters Arising**

None

**5. Chair's Review of the Year and Report on Dales and Bowland CIC**

Bruce McLeod (BML), Chair, provided a PowerPoint presentation [available on request and on our website].

Comments: none

**Dales & Bowland CIC**

Professor Chris Nash (CN), Chair of the D&BCIC, briefly reported on the achievements during the financial year and challenges since then due to Covid-19. CN noted his thanks to volunteer Jenny Pateman-Harrison who has now retired from the role and to Ann Shadrake for her assistance through the year.

Comments: Ruth Annison noted an imminent presentation on Rural Transport she was making to the North Yorkshire Rural Commission and asked if others were doing the same or would make written presentations on the topic. Chris Nash confirmed that he was on behalf of D&B CIC.

A question received in advance from Martin Pearson: Will the Directors explore with YDNP and others the possibility of having a zoom conference on the issue of integrated public transport in the Yorkshire Dales?

In response BML

If this is an idea the Directors of the D&B CIC would like to take forward, we will support them and provide an opportunity to discuss this with senior members of the team at YDNPA at one of our regular liaison meetings. We are offering our first ever online conference, on the topic of A Green New Dales: Year One of the climate emergency, on two dates in October, with several representatives from YDNPA. This will give us good experience in offering such online events.

## **6. Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts**

Ian Harrison (IH), Treasurer, provided a PowerPoint presentation (to be summarised in the Autumn Review). IH noted his thanks to Ann Shadrake and Penny Lowe in particular during the period of Covid-19 lockdown (March – August).

Total income for 2019/20 was £229,917 and total expenditure was £93,551.

A question received in advance from Martin Pearson: What are the plans of the Directors to use the significant legacy from the late Dr John Disney?

IH responded We have recently concluded a review of our strategic priorities in order to provide us with a framework for helping determine our funding priorities, including the use of the generous legacy from Dr Disney. In the meantime Council have already approved plans to recruit a third part-time staff member to increase our capacity to pursue our objectives, and the recruitment of a part-time freelance co-ordinator to take our successful Capturing the Past project into a second phase. We are also in active discussions with Dales and Bowland CIC on how we can best use a part of the legacy to support their valuable work.

A question received in advance from Martin Pearson: Will the Directors commit to maintaining and if possible increasing their annual contribution to bus services?

IH responded: We are very supportive of the work of Dales and Bowland CIC and each year review ways in which we can best support them. As noted in the response to your first question, we are in active discussions with D&BCIC on how we can best support them in the future. As I noted in my presentation, during the financial year 2019-2020, we passed across to the CIC £25,000 in donations and Gift Aid from the public and businesses given for public transport, in addition the regular annual grant of £2,000 from our own resources.

Members were asked to approve the Annual Report and Accounts 2019-2020.

Proposed: Mark Corner                      Seconded: Nancy Stedman

Carried unanimously with 1 abstention

## **7. Election of Directors and Honorary Officers**

Since the 2019 AGM, we have had 18 Directors. Charity Commission guidance and our Articles of Association require at least one third of the Directors (six) to stand down at each AGM and seek re-election where applicable.

Five Trustees have stood down since the 2019 AGM and another two are seeking re-election for a second term.

BML thanked those Directors who have stood down since the 2019 AGM namely: Jon Beavan, Peter Charlesworth, Ann Cryer, Tim Hancock and Chris Hartley.

Two existing Directors – Kyle Blue and Marion Temple – are standing for re-election for a second term of office. Relevant brief biographical information had been circulated in advance.

In addition to the votes of those present at the AGM, 93 proxy votes in favour had been received in support of these elections.

Proposed: Nancy Stedman      Seconded: Rick Cowley  
Carried unanimously with 1 abstention

In addition, the Chair was pleased to introduce two Directors Ken Humphris and Dilip Mysorekar [co-opted at Council on 9 September 2020] both of whom are standing for election at this AGM. Due to short notice, their biographies had only been made available on 15 September 2020.

Proposed: Mark Corner      Seconded: Malcolm Petyt  
Carried unanimously with 1 abstention

BML noted that he continues within his existing term of office as Chair as does Ian Harrison as Treasurer, both in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3 year term.

While our Rules provide for the election of a Vice Chair, this position has not previously been filled. However we now wish to elect a Vice Chair in support of the Chair and Wilf Fenten, who acted as the Chair of our 2019 AGM, is standing for election to this role. Again, relevant brief biographical information had been circulated in advance.

In addition to the votes of those present at the AGM 93 proxy votes in favour had been received in support of this election.

Proposed: Ian Harrison      Seconded: Nancy Stedman  
Carried unanimously with 1 abstention

## **8. Notification of President and Vice Presidents**

BML noted that we are fortunate to have three excellent Vice Presidents – namely Mrs Ann Cryer, Dr Malcolm Petyt and Dr Colin Speakman - who will be familiar to many of you due to their long and distinguished association with Friends of the Dales and formerly the Yorkshire Dales Society. All three Vice Presidents continue in their existing terms of office until our 2021 AGM. BML noted that Trustees were continuing to seek a suitable candidate for the role of President.

**9. Notification of Proposed Honorary Members**

BML noted that Council at their meeting of 9 September 2020 had appointed both Hilary Baker and Chris Hartley as new Honorary Members in view of their outstanding contribution to our charity over many decades including as Trustees until this AGM.

The Council have also approved the continuing award to the other Honorary Members named on the Agenda.

If members had feedback or comments following the AGM they were invited to email these to Ann Shadrake.

BML asked for any final comments from Members.

Miles Rhodes asked about the Memorandum of Understanding with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and why this had apparently only been agreed in 2019 despite the long establishment of both charities. As Chair at the time, Mark Corner explained that the original memorandum dated from many years ago and had been recently refreshed to better reflect the ongoing and supportive relationship between the two charities.

BML thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 15.25 p.m.

Chair ..... Date.....