

EXETER ST JAMES COMMUNITY TRUST LTD

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ST SIDWELL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL YORK ROAD EXETER ON 8 JULY 2025 AT 6.15PM

Present: 16 shareholder members registered their attendance including directors Robyn Connett (Chair), Paul Layton (Secretary), Rebecca Bower (Treasurer) and Jonathan Dawson.

1 **Welcome**

Robyn Connett welcomed members to the meeting.

2 **Apologies**

Mark Allen, Wendy Arnold, Paul Batterham, Di Boston, Delian Bower, Phyllida Brown, Melanie Cleveland, Andrew Connett, Janet Cotter, Clifford Dampney, Brian Gaywood, Paul Hedley, Ian Hodgson, Jack Layton, Frazer Osment, Cllr. Thomas Richardson, Harry Temple, Sue Temple, Rosalind Ulrich, Martin Weiler, Lucinda Williams.

3 **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2 July 2024**

The minutes were approved, signed and adopted as a true record.

4 **Matters arising**

None.

5 **The Directors' Report**

Robyn Connett spoke to various aspects of the report including:

- a vote of thanks to Harry Temple who stood down as a Director in November after nine years
- the co-option to the Board of Jonathan Dawson
- the tenth anniversary of the Trust celebrated in the centrefold of the winter edition of *About St James*
- a brief history of the acquisition of Queen's Crescent Garden following Exeter City Council's compulsory purchase, its designation from private to public open space and the Trust's signing of 125-year lease
- the transformation of the garden for the benefit of all
- plans to seek major Heritage Lottery Funding to complete the garden's regeneration in accord with the community's aspirations formulated during the Neighbourhood Planning consultation
- the Board's gratitude to those individuals and businesses who offer pro bono assistance as well as those unsung heroes who volunteer to maintain the garden
- the Trust's vigilance in monitoring planning applications and its submissions as consultee in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan
- the prospect of a new Neighbourhood Plan as outlined by Frazer Osment in his address to last year's AGM.

The report was adopted.

6 Approval of Accounts

Rebecca Bower presented an analysis of the financial statement, income and expenditure similar to the previous year. Unrestricted funds remain low.

In responding to a question regarding restricted funds RB explained that this money could not be spent on capital projects. It accrues from a £45,000 “dowry” to finance waste (fly-tipping) costs over the length of the 125-year lease. The money is invested in CCLA realising annual interest of approx. £1,700

The accounts were approved.

7 To consider audit exemption or auditor appointment

The Directors’ recommendation that the accounts be unaudited was approved.

8 Election of Directors

Robyn Connett and Jonathan Dawson, having been duly nominated, were reappointed.

Rebecca Bower and Paul Layton continue.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.