**The Life Project (Bath)**

*(Loving Life)*

(Registered Charity: 1142459)

**Annual General Meeting**

Sunday 21st October 2018 at 3pm

St Luke’s Hall, Bath

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Present**

Sue welcomed everyone:

Sue Snell

**Colin** and Siobhan McSherry

**James** and Sarah Couchman

Kathryn & Helen Spackman

Sarah Moxham and Ryan Heywood

Jo and Josh Curd

Dinah Darby

**Dave** and Josh Twine

Nigel Young

Robert Simons

**Bev** Harris

**Tony** Russell

**Duncan** & Philippa Nash

Nari Kim

Fiona Day

Jieun Lee

Hugh & Karen Mullaly

***Trustees shown in Bold****, Supporters in plain type.*

**Apologies from**: **Clive,** Joshand Vickie Brooks**,** Jocey Twine, Lettie Harris, Pauline Mc Sherry, Lizzie Norman, Bev Craney, Marian and Brian Marlow, Sonia Mainstone-Cotton, Uriel Renton, Robert Law

Robert opened the meeting in prayer.

**Minutes from the 2017 AGM.**

At James’ request these were approved as a true and accurate record by all.

**Appointment /Retirement of Trustees**

James explained that Colin and Clive have come to the end of their terms as trustees but both are willing to stand again. Duncan has also joined the board in the last year and his position also needs formally approving. All three appointments were approved by all.

**Chair’s Report**

James felt that this is a good time of year (Harvest) to remember and give thanks for all the good of this year. He reminded those present that we are especially remembering the year April 2017-March 2018. Thanks was expressed for the generous grants we have received in the past from St Johns. This year we were able to run pilot sessions for Parents and Carers as well as the Haven group. Both of these groups started at Southside Youth Centre, but the former re-located to the Weston Hub and the latter to Hayhill Baptist Church. Funding came to an end for Haven in summer 2018. The trustees are grateful for all the work Julia and Fiona put into that group and have reflected in the experience and will be mindful in how to take the experience forward in the future. The parents and carer days will continue to be funded for as long as possible.

In this last year the shed had been opened at the barn, thanks to a grant from Quartet and a spot-welder purchased, thanks to a gift from the Jug of Oil Trust. These have both been a great boost to the production of our plant supports.

During the year we also welcomed Dinah Darby as Administration and Communications Officer. It has already been a real blessing having her oversee our newsletters and social media.

James also expressed thanks to Nari Kim, our first ever Time for God volunteer who has contributed so much to several of our groups. She has put together a little film which is to be shared later in the meeting.

Jennifer Mills moved on as Horticultural Co-ordinator when her funding ran out in summer 2017. We are grateful for all she contributed.

Also in this year Rachel, Operations Director, stated her intention to emigrate with the family and in the spring we were able to recruit and welcome Sue Snell. This handover of roles was marked with a lovely, sunny barbecue at the barn in May.

Another highlight in the year was for about 14 Life Project members to take part in a holiday to Lourdes and the Pyrenees …. A great partnership with HCPT.

Other more local social events included some walks by the canal, picnics and a bowling trip.

During the year Kate Lane was appointed to work as an independent fundraiser in May 2017. This resulted from the trustees’ desire to move away from being so dependent on St Johns for funding.

James also gave thanks for our partnership with the HAS Trust as we work together towards realising our homes project.

**Financial Report**Tony surprised the group with a quiz of the year to start his report!

A full report is available as part of the annual report but broadly the key figures are:

Income: £71,000

Expenditure: £78,600

£29,000 was carried forward from the previous year.

Tony presented a number of graphs and pie-charts showing sources of income and key areas of expenditure.

Looking ahead Tony said that he felt our current more challenging time (financially) could be a good thing as it galvanises us to look to other sources for income and to develop a robust financial strategy. As well as more donors we need a greater range of funding sources. Fundraising for projects is not so hard but covering central costs is harder but important to keep the organisation going as a whole.

**Appointment of Independent Examiners**

Tony recommended that Hollingdale Pooley of Bristol continue to be our auditors and independent examiners.

Proposed: Tony

Seconded: Bev

**Operation Director’s report**

Sue reminded everyone that the full report may be viewed online on our website.

Sue’s priorities going forward include:

* Homes for life ….. making progress, researching all possibilities, finding a good group of potential housemates.
* Community projects … helping these to grow and consolidate. Also to network and look to see how we can expand the reach of what we do.
* Communications and resourcing …. This will involve listening and sharing with LP stakeholders, highlighting the work of the LP to a wider audience (churches, businesses. Sue challenged the group to think about who is in their network and how the profile of the LP can be raised). Sourcing resources to sustain and grow will be a priority as well as fully costing and resourcing well everything we do.

Sue is really looking forward to moving offices from the ‘cupboard’ at Southside to the room behind the library in Weston. Sue said how much she appreciates her staff, especially Dinah in the office. Our volunteers are also great …. And there is always room for more!

Sue also highlighted the forthcoming Curry Night on 10th November.

In closing, Sue encouraged people to keep in touch with her and she thanked everyone for attending.

**Any Questions?**

James invited any questions. Jo asked if we are still employing a fundraiser. James explained that since we have sadly have missed a recent grant from St Johns we have decided to stop paying Kate for now.

The meeting closed with Nari’s film, a number of people shared golden memories from the year and we sang ‘Father we adore you’ as a closing prayer.

**The Meeting closed at 4.05pm – followed by tea and cake.**