**AGM**

**2.30pm, 20th October 2019: St Luke’s Church Centre**

Trustees Present: James Couchman, Acting Chair (JC)

 Tony Russell, Treasurer (TR)

 Duncan Nash (DN)

Clive Brooks (CB)

Dave Twine (DT)

 Colin McSherry (CM),

 Ruth Taylor (RT)

 In attendance: Sue Snell, Operations Director (SS)

 Secretary: Dinah Darby, Administrator/Communications Officer (DD)

**Others attending: Jieun Lee, Sarah Couchman, Nigel Young, Robert Simons, Dave Twine, Sarah Moxham-Hendra, Ryan Heywood, Claire Jones, Phillipa Nash, Tom Riley, Elizabeth Riley, Lily Gaynor, Pauline McSherry, Siobhan McSherry, Paul Taylor, Kathryn Spackman, Peter Spackman, Helen Spackman, Tim ling, Vicky Brooks, Josh Brooks, Aimee Corbett, Edmund Prideaux, Christine Prideaux and Alison Bracken.**

The meeting opened with an opening prayer

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| **1.** | **Apologies for Absence**Apologies were received from Bev Harris, Rachel Hornsby, Brian and Marion Marlow, Lizzie Norman, Jess Thompson, Sue Kyle and Fiona Day. |
| **2.** | **Minutes from the last AGM**Minutes of the last AGM were brought to the attention of the meeting and it was agreed that they were an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.  |
| **3.** | **Appointment/Retirement of Trustees**James Couchman (JC) welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting of the Life Project. JC noted and was delighted that there were more people attending this year. JC confirmed that there were no terms of office coming to an end. The Trustees have been actively looking for new trustees. JC confirmed that Ruth Taylor (RT) has agreed to become a Trustee and her nomination has been approved by the Board (her tenure is for three years). JC asked for any objections to this being confirmed. JC formally announced his decision to take a sabbatical year and so will step down from his role as temporary chair. Tony Russell (TR) gave a formal vote of thanks to JC. |
| **4.** | **Looking back - celebrating the achievements of the past year 2018-19. Presentation by Sue Snell (SS)**Achievements over the last year* We now have established a new Office in Weston where we have much more space and are able to hold meetings.
* We are securing the work of the Life Project by updating policies and managing financial and operational matters more proactively.
* Our Fundraising strategy now includes more community fund raising activities. We have also had birthdays, wedding donations, funeral and concert donation and sporting activities that have created income. SS and Colin McSherry (CM) continue to be very busy with grant applications.
* Homes for life, a foundational aim of the Life Project, is on-going. We have been working with the HAS trust and SS will continue to up-date when there is more information.
* Contact and our profile with churches is naturally important for the Life Project. Thanks to Weston All Saints and the Riverside congregation at St Bart’s for their continued support.
* Contact with schools. We are building contact with Three Ways School with Sarah Couchman (SC) and Tom Riley (TR) having a very successful meeting just recently. Dinah Darby (DD) is making contact with St Gregory’s and we hope this will mean some potential fund raising opportunities.

Introducing new staff:* Rachel Hornsby, Project Assistant at the Parent/carer Drop-In Session
* Sue Kyle, Kitchen Assistant at the Barn
* Tom Riley, Barn Development and Outreach Worker.

Introducing new volunteers:* Welcome – Claire Jones (Parent Carers and Barn), Aimee Corbett (Barn), Heather Tinling (Parent Carers), Steve and Jenny Herring (Allotment).

Claire Jones spoke about her experience of being a volunteer with the Life Project. She has found it a privilege to be involved in the work which is purposeful and with a real sense of community and she invited others to get involved. She highlighted her work with the Parent Carer Drop-in group which had seen an increase in pre-school children attending and reached out to a different cohort of people in Bath – this comes with new challenges but there is real impact for those who attend. Mini SpringsSS reported that Mini Springs has found the last year challenging with attendance being very low, however over the last few months some new families have started to come. The Life Project would value prayer to enable us to encourage the young generation coming through.The Old Acorn BarnSC reported that the Barn has had a successful year where cooking what has been grown in the allotment has been amazing for the group’s well-being. Jieun Lee (JL) has incorporated some significant art projects and continues to enable the Makers to play their instruments. Drama session have this term’s theme of ‘Home’ have been very successful. Thinking around Home and what it might be like to be homeless has been very successful with the Makers really taking this on board. AllotmentThis year we have had lots of work carried out at the Allotment with the help of a small grant and Andy Day and business volunteers have helped build and create some new areas to enable easier access. One of the Maker’s dream was to have a flower garden and this has been established and she loves taking flowers back to the Barn. Another highlight for the volunteers at the Allotment was planting an apple tree and then harvesting the produce to take back to the Barn. SpringsThis year Springs has been successfully holding ‘Faith stories’ where each member of the group has taken a turn to lead a session and have talked about their lives and relationships with God. A lady who has just started recently attending and who doesn’t go to church was asked what God means to her; she pointed at musicians, up to God and then to her heart. An amazing witness of the group’s impact. |
| **5.** | **Financial report and appointment of the Independent Examiner**TR gave a summary of the accounts for April 2018 to March 2019. * Our income of £113,000 has had a 59% increase
* Our expenditure of £95,000 has had a 21% increase
* We have had a surplus of £17,000 k over the year, (last year there was a deficit of £8,000)
* We have secured a St John’s Grant to fund the Parent Carer Drop-in group of £65,000 over 3 years
* The adult drop-in pilot (Haven) did not continue.

TR highlighted the following achievements: Income* Fundraising has risen from £2,000 to £17,000
* Donations have risen from £5,000 to £14,000
* The amount we are depending on grants has now dropped from 60% to 49%

ExpenditureOur central costs have risen to £41,000 from £25,000 (this covers staff and the new office in Weston). The total percentage of our expenditure looks like this:* Barn 34
* Parent Carers 17
* Central staff 38
* Professional fees 3
* Fundraising 2
* Other costs (central) 6
* Total 100

TR confirmed that we will continue during the next financial year to continue with:* Rolling out the fundraising strategy
* Barn development and outreach
* The website up-grade
* Increasing project income
* Submitting for grants toward central overheads
* Looking to increase our regular donations

TR reminded the meeting that the External Examiner for 2018-19 is Mr Colin Goater (CG). He proposed that CG continued in this role. This was seconded by JC and agreed by the meeting.  |
| **6.** | **New membership arrangements**Dave Twine introduced the new Membership paper that has been agreed by the Trustees. The constitution stipulated that the Membership body of the Life Project should help choose, elect and hold Trustees to account. DT facilitated an activity for everyone to consider how they are involved with the Life Project. This demonstrated that anyone who has played a part in the Life Project, in any way, can sign up to become a member. SS encouraged us to take the documentation and prayerfully consider becoming a member. |
| **7.** | **Looking forward – your dreams and aspirations for the Life Project**SS confirmed that we now have an Development and Outreach Worker, Tom Riley, which will enable us to reach out to the community and make connections, enabling more people to engage with us. Tom spoke about how encouraged he has been by the potential for growth and opportunities to reach out to people who are struggling to find engagement after school and college. He reported that it has been helpful to have spoken to many of the Life Project community alongside networking in the community. SS then facilitated an exercise for everyone to consider what their ‘hopes and dreams’ were for the Life Project and to think about what they would like to hear is happening at the next AGM. SS confirmed that everyone’s thoughts would be typed up and circulated to the Trustees to inform future decision making. |
| **8.** | **Closing words**JC concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting and read from Isaiah 26.  |

The meeting closed with a song and closing prayer.