

**Minutes of Hastings Voluntary Action's AGM
Thursday 17th November 2016
Sussex Coast College, Station Plaza, Hastings**

Welcome & Apologies

Mike Cornish as Chair of Hastings Voluntary Action opened the event by welcoming those present. Apologies were received from 16 people.

Minutes of previous AGM held on 25th November 2015

The minutes had been circulated and were offered to the meeting for approval.

- Proposed: Dick Edwards; Seconded: Robin Hill
- Accepted: Unanimously

Annual Report

Steve Manwaring, Director of HVA explained that the work of HVA is a team effort with trustees, staff & volunteers working with partners. The Annual Report was offered to the meeting in the form of a wall planner that includes information & contacts relating to HVA's work throughout 2016. Steve Manwaring described the context that we all are working in, and highlighted the following elements:

- HVA has a building, Jackson Hall where meetings, training and celebrations happen, ideas are shared and support is given. There is also accommodation for other voluntary sector organisations and HVA was able to quickly step in when the Sara Lee Trust needed offices after the fire at the hospice.
- HVA offers a voice for the community and supports the Hastings Community Network (HCN) which has representatives on key strategic bodies and has been outspoken about issues such as cuts to Adult Social Care Services and at the potential closure of Brighton University's Hastings campus.
- We have been an advocate for change – leading the 'behaviour change' campaign 'Clean Seas Please' with the Environment Agency to ensure cleaner local bathing water. The Shore Academy, delivered through Education Futures Trust (EFT) was also part of this work. 'Love Hastings, Love Yourself', a recent campaign promoting community cohesion & wellbeing using community assets. 'Team Wellfit' promotes change through physical activity and 'Building Stronger Bridges' encourages good neighbourliness and volunteering. 'Supporting Self Help' is also a project we lead, to improve the networking and ability of smaller groups to also 'get support'.
- HVA is a catalyst for local inward investment, and we provide a funding advice service & funding training. We have brought £1,135,000 to the area, and created, or sustained 30 jobs.
- The new 'Health Inequalities' funding stream created through the CCG has supported many local groups with small grants. Together with their 'Health and Wellbeing Community Hub' programme, HVA has helped to engage the local community and will enable community buildings to be sustained. HVA has also supported other funders including Sussex Community Foundation and Foreshore Trust.

- FLAG (Fisheries local action group) created the Classroom on the Coast (with HBC and the local fishing industry), and more funding is expected soon.
- HVA has been instrumental in creating a local bid for European funding (CLLD).
- HVA is a 'trusted organisation' & sometimes handles sensitive situations via services including our Hate Crime project & Links Migrant Support. Mediation and complex charity tax/law issues are also taken on by HVA.
- The future: demand is up and funding is going down. HVA is working on an organisational strategy. Together with work from the Board and staff, HVA will further develop into organisation able to handle the challenges.
- Finally Steve gave his heartfelt thanks for all the work contributed by the HVA trustees, staff and volunteers.

There were no questions. The Annual report was approved by the meeting.

- Proposed: Ion Castro; Seconded: Sue Adey
- Accepted: Unanimously

Annual Accounts

The Annual Accounts were explained to the meeting by Graham Morrow, HVA's Treasurer. A shorthand version is printed on the HVA wall planner provided to everyone, and a full set is available at any time from the finance team.

- Proposed: Ken Hales; Seconded: Marie Casey
- Agreed: Unanimously

Change of Scrutiny Level for Accounts

The Board wish to propose a change the scrutiny level of the year end accounts from a full audit to an Independent Examination. The detail of the proposal was provided to the meeting as Agenda Item 5. The issue was further explained to the meeting by Steve Sampson (accountant at Ashdown Hurrey) and Pat Weaver.

- Proposed: by the HVA Board; Seconded: Alex Francis
- Agreed: Unanimously

Proposal to Continue with current Auditors

Ashdown Hurrey have been proposed to continue as HVA's auditors.

- Proposed: by the HVA Board; Seconded: Alex Francis
- Agreed: Unanimously

Election of Executive Committee

There are 10 places available with 6 nominations.

Sue Adey, Royal Voluntary Services
 Mike Cornish, Winterborne Close Residents Association
 Ken Hales, Hastings & St Leonards Seniors Forum
 Graham Morrow, Amicus Horizon
 Graham Goode, Horizons Community Learning CIC
 Roger Sweetman, Southwater Area Community Centre

The meeting agreed to block vote all the nominees onto the Committee unanimously.

Steve Manwaring gave his thanks for all the hard work of the trustees.
 The meeting closed at 10.15am.