

Minutes of the Othona Community AGM held on 23rd September 2017 at St Andrews, Waterloo.

Colin Hodgetts welcomed 27 members of the Community to the AGM. Apologies were received from another 13 people.

Colin began by explaining that Roger Neville, the community's Treasure has been ill and hospitalised so there is no Annual Report and accounts to share at this meeting. There is time for this to be finalised and submitted before the deadline with the Charity Commissioners and Companies House. The firm of Alwyns has taken on the day to day accounting role and Colin H and Colin B from Bradwell will meet with a partner from Alwyns to agree the work and responsibilities as appropriate. A new Trustee Treasurer, with appropriate experience, is urgently needed to oversee the work and community investments.

Colin added that we owe a great debt of gratitude to Roger who took over the accounts when it was left in disarray after Martin Morris, the Finance Manager, died. Roger has worked over and above the call of duty to put everything on a secure footing.

The minutes of the last AGM, held during the Othona 70th birthday celebrations, were approved by the meeting. It was agreed that it had been a good do!

Colin introduced Liz Johnson who will be taking on a central role on the Trustee Body. Angela Mutum will be coming on board as a Bradwell Trustee but was unable to be with us at this meeting.

This year Alan Hounsham and Janet Aldridge have resigned as Trustees. Janet was also Chair of the OWD committee. Thanks were given for all their work for the Community. Fran Jones is on maternity leave, having had a baby girl on March 4th.

There were questions from the floor from Kate Portal and Jonney Aldridge as to who is on the committees and what the level of information recorded on the websites should be as some has been very out of date. Tim said the Bradwell site has been updated to give committee names etc. Trustees reaffirmed their intention for these to be kept up to date – new websites are coming on stream – OWD now has a working new site and Bradwell will use the template for the structure to populate their own version. The new site will work well on any device and will enable live booking and payments as appropriate.

The future of Full Circle is still to be determined. Colin asked for feedback from people so the level of need for printed material can be assessed. What do people want to see and how do they need to receive it. Brenda Motley said she preferred to read thoughtful articles in print, whereas straight information is fine on screen. Kate Portal asked for documents to be in docx format as well as pdf. This should be possible on the websites.

Bradwell report

Tim covered the changes in the way the centre is staffed. An Erasmus bid provided a group of 4 young people who were now in place working at Bradwell for a year. Bradwell also uses the 'Workaway' website for temporary workers which had worked well.

The VAPs weeks were found to work better with smaller numbers so this year there had been three groups of 8 over the summer. Tim thanked Paul Winter and his team for their help with all things VAP!

Dave and Sandra will be leaving in April next year after nearly three years on the Core. Tim wants to say a big thank you to them and is hopeful that he will be able to fill the vacant posts.

Almost all weekends during the year have a programmed activity including school groups, churches and supporting those who need a holiday. Reconciliation is becoming a major theme at Bradwell again with some really good activities. This will figure largely in the ongoing strategy work and will be inviting people to contribute to that and other themes. Tim has tried to broaden out consultation with others in the community and thanks all who give their time as volunteers without whom the work wouldn't be done.

OWD Report

Tony was away for three months on sabbatical last year and the community was ably led by Caroline Cameron who has now officially been given the post of Deputy Warden.

Stand out moments include a Core trip to Bradwell, and a Celtic Easter weekend with Tess Ward. Living with Dying is a new theme which was successfully launched and will hopefully be repeated in due course. New Horizons in Islam gave a different slant to the way it is often portrayed and was led by a couple within the progressive wing of Islam.

Antje, our housekeeper, married Noel, our beekeeper, and they have moved to the Franciscan Friary at Hilfield to start their married life.

A Gala concert was arranged to celebrate the homecoming of our grand piano with 7 pianists and 3 singers from Bradwell, Germany and North Devon and lots in between. It was a fundraiser for the new Four Seasons Studio which will replace the old Art Block – now that planning permission has successfully been applied for.

Strategy is also on the agenda for the OWD committee with a meeting dedicated to it coming up shortly.

Tony finished off with an imaginary tour of the new Studio giving an idea of its size and facilities. We hope it will be built in time for the bi-annual Dorset Art Weeks in May 2018 and that it will enable more events to run simultaneously alongside the usual programme.

Colin finished to meeting by saying that the Trustees were there to ensure that the work of the centres complies with the mission of Othona and with legislation. The real work determining how that is carried out lies with the Centres, their staff, committee, volunteers and visitors.

We concluded the AGM with a shared act of Worship.