

Noah's Ark Children's Venture

Annual General Meeting

held by a Zoom Call at 7pm on Tuesday 16 March 2021

Attending;

Name	Role	Organisation
Annie Rust	Member	DSCG Lewisham
Dave Newman	Member	Individual
George Smith	Member	Young Lewisham Project
Johann Williams	Member	St Andrews
Quynh Nguyen	Member	Vietnamese Families
Debbie Cucuk	Member	Adventurous Gems
Adam Hainsworth	Trustee, Treasurer	NACV
Caroline Newton	Chair	NACV
James Eastman	Trustee	NACV
John Davidson	Trustee	NACV
Jo Wylie	Trustee	NACV
Mark Smyth	Secretary and Business Lead	NACV
Marcus Scrivens	Centre Manager	NACV
Matt Attwater	Site Maintenance	NACV
Sarah Robinson	Co-opted Trustee	NACV
Edward Wilson	Co-opted Trustee	NACV
Martin Doyle		
Jane Cadbury		Four Winds Trust
Richard Wilkinson		
Sam Wilkinson		
Chantelle Turner		Young Carers Lewisham
Sarah Doyle		
Moira Kerrane		Evelyn Parents Forum

1. Welcome, introduction

Caroline welcomed members and friends and supporters of the charity to our first AGM that is virtual and declared the meeting quorate.

2. Apologies had been received from:

Name	Organisation
Pam Foley	Friendly Gardens U5's

3. Minutes of the previous AGM were approved as a correct record

Proposed by Dave Newman and seconded by Annee Rust, and approved unanimously by the membership.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chair's Report

Caroline Newton, Chair, stated this year this work has become even more important as we all continue to adjust to a different way of life due to COVID19 and all that this difficult and challenging time has brought. We were looking forward to establishing new partnerships with groups both local to the Woods and nationally. However, the COVID19 pandemic then meant we had to make the difficult decision to close the Woods at the beginning of March, for several months.

This Report also incorporates our annual accounts for that period. The annual grant aid we have long received from the London Borough of Lewisham has now come to an end, although we will continue to work with all our groups from Lewisham and to find new ways of working with Lewisham going forward.

We are pleased to say that the Woods is in a reasonable secure financial position going forward but in light of the funding from Lewisham coming to an end and the impact of COVID19; we are looking to continue to develop new partnerships and fundraising strategies to fill these funding gaps.

Our thanks also to the Friends of Macaroni Wood, and the wide range of charitable trusts listed in the report that have provided and continue to provide essential funds to maintain and develop our charity.

We remain grateful to the Ernest Cook Trust, the owners of Macaroni Wood, who lease this wonderful woodland site to us. Their wholehearted support over the years to help further our development and growth continues apace, and we look forward to consolidating this positive relationship in the future.

Caroline paid tribute to the staff, Marcus, Mark and Matt, our part-time housekeepers Ann, Vicki and Penelope, as well as our bookkeeper Donna Cole, for all their hard work this past year, particularly in light of the COVID19 pandemic.

The Board would also like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Sophie Edwards, who stepped down as our Company Secretary this year. Sophie helped to steer the Charity through some difficult times and we all greatly appreciated her experience, thoughtfulness and the sense of fun that she brought to all her dealings with the Charity.

Finally, a huge thanks to all the trustees, volunteers, and friends of Macaroni Wood who donate their time and energies in so many ways that contributes so much to the organisation's success and development.

We know that, despite this difficult and challenging year, NACV will continue to flourish for many years to come!

6. Treasurer's report

Adam Hainsworth (Treasurer) noted the headline figures of the year 2019 – 20, the charity had an income of £198,860, with expenditure at £225,204, with a loss of £26,000. However, the loss was a decision by the Board of Trustees to invest in the refurbishment of Bazley House kitchen and communal areas and other assets of the facility, such as the fixed roof hoist in Castree House and work on the Sports Hall roofing. There was a fall in donations from 2019 from £125k to £84k but an increase in fees by £24k. We lost up to £6k in fees having to close due to Covid-19 mid-March 2020. Adam extended our thanks to Lewisham Council for our final grant of £12,082 from them and all of our funders that are listed in the Annual Report.

With regards to expenditure, there was a slight increase in staff costs and laundry, mainly due to the increase in beneficiaries and groups staying. To align with current accounting principles £22,000 notional donation has been added to both the current and previous year, reflecting the notional value of the lease based on the rateable value.

There were some adjustments to the reserves in terms of the designated funds. We have created a ring-fenced £40,000 as protection to offset any more losses due to Covid 19 cancellations, which has come from transferring from other designated funds. Also the new Dennis Hunter Memorial Fund created by the trustees as a new unrestricted fund to enable the management team to facilitate disadvantaged community groups coming to visit.

There is a £242,583 carry over into 2020 – 21. Adam thanked Mark and Marcus for their outstanding financial management during a difficult end of the year.

The Treasurer's report was proposed by Dave Newman and seconded by George Smith, and approved unanimously by the membership.

7. Independent examiners

To reappoint Third Sector Accountancy Ltd as the independent examiners. Proposed by Johann Williams and seconded by Annee Rust, and approved unanimously by the membership.

8. Independent examiners' remuneration

To authorise the charity trustees to set the level of the independent examiner's fees of £900. Proposed by George Smith and seconded by Annee Rust, and approved unanimously by the membership.

9. Appointment of charity trustees

There was a recommendation from the Board that the following trustees are reappointed, to the members;

To re-appoint Joanne Wylie - Proposed by Quynh Nguyen and seconded by George Smith, and approved unanimously by the membership.

To re-appoint Adam Hainsworth - Proposed by Annee Rust and seconded by Dave Newman, and approved unanimously by the membership.

To re-appoint Caroline Newton - Proposed by George Smith and seconded by Annee Rust, and approved unanimously by the membership.

To re-appoint John Davidson - Proposed by Dave Newman and seconded by Annee Rust, and approved unanimously by the membership.

There was also a recommendation from the Board to confirm the appointment of Edward Wilson who joined the Board on the 16 February 2021 - Proposed by George Smith and seconded by Johann Williams, and approved unanimously by the membership.

To confirm the appointment of Sarah Robinson who joined the Board on the 16 February 2021 - Proposed by George Smith and seconded by Dave Smith, and approved unanimously by the membership.

Martin Doyle who had stepped down as trustee in February 2020, asked the Board and membership if he could stand to be appointed as a trustee. Caroline asked for advice from Sarah Robinson who suggested this could be proposed and motion carried but would be subject to a check on the Articles. Proposed by Annee Rust and seconded by Dave Newman, and approved unanimously by the membership.

10. Any other business

Caroline explained the history of Noah's Ark Children's Venture becoming incorporated in 1997 and in 2004 it was required to become a member organisation. Since the original drive to being members on board, many member organisations have ceased to exist or are no longer involved with the charity and each year it becomes more difficult to maintain our quorate position for our AGM.

With continued discussions amongst the Board on how best to move forward, it has been decided to seek permission from the members to cease the membership but once we have a clear plan moving forward. This plan will be looking at the Friends of Macaroni Wood and how we can work with groups in a meaningful in the future. Once we have a proposal we will call an EGM.

Moira Kerrane from the Evelyn Parents Forum in Lewisham stated how much they appreciated Macaroni Wood and they are trying to persuade Lewisham Council to support Noah's Ark Children's Venture financially again to support 45 families alone from Evelyn Parents Forum to access this wonderful facility.

Caroline stated that Mark Smyth had been in discussion with Lewisham on our future status with the Council. Caroline also said how we want to work in partnership with groups like Evelyn Parents Forum in finding solutions to these kinds of barriers.

Chantelle Turner from Lewisham Young Carers, stated how they would be keen to further their partnership with Noah's Ark Children's Venture.

Caroline closed the meeting and thanked everyone that attended the meeting, our supporters and members and how we look forward to welcoming groups back to Macaroni Wood. Caroline also suggested that if there are any groups that are struggling to meet the costs of coming to Macaroni Wood to have a conversation with Mark or Marcus.

By order of the Board of charity trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', is positioned above the typed name 'Mark Smyth'.

Mark Smyth

Company Secretary

16 March 2021