

## Enable Ability

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7:30pm  
At Landport Community Centre

#### Present:

Staff: Richard Soutar (Manager), Robin Pryde-Jarman, Hollie Sherred, Katie Wren-Perkins, Julie Nethercote

Trustees: Jon Muller (Chairman), Joe Harbour (Treasurer), Stuart Elsom (Vice Chairman), Alison Bowie, Mark Thomas, Peter Robertson, Kerry Blomorous

Others: Alan Bowie, Rosie Harbour

1. Welcome The Chairman, Jon Muller, opened the meeting by welcoming all present.

2. Apologies Drew (Vice Chairman), Bill John, Sue Coldham, Nicole Quinquenel, Janice Vine, Susan Rockingham

3. Approval of the Minutes of last year's AGM, held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

Everyone in attendance confirmed that they were happy with the minutes from last year. Jon Muller (Chairman) will duly sign them.

4. To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024:

Joe praised Bill for an excellent Annual Report, and said we have received the final printed copies. It will be uploaded to our website next week.

Joe advised that the charity has run very well financially this year, and informed attendees that the full audit of accounts tells you much more information, and is available on our website. He continued by advising that the charity made just £9524 in surplus, which equals just 0.06% of our total income, and is really pleased that we have managed to break even almost every year for the past 20 years.

That said, the charity's next steps are to be taken with care, as the charity's main costs are staff salaries, equalling 78% of our income. We need constant chunks of big money.

The good news is, we were donated a 'Deed of Gift' by the Edward Gostling Foundation this year, totalling £250,000, and Portsmouth City Council agreed a 10% uplift in costs for our Befriending service.

Joe announced his departure as Treasurer of Enable Ability, and advised that Katie will shadow him for the next few weeks whilst she gets to grips with the finances.

Joe asked for the Annual Report and Accounts to be accepted- Stuart Elsom proposed, and they were seconded by Mark Thomas.

Jon thanked Joe for all of the hard work he has done for the charity over the past 20 years, and wished him well with his future endeavours.

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#### 5. To appoint Auditors:

Jones Avens were taken over by Carpenter Box.

Carpenter Box, Chartered Accountants- Proposed as auditors for the forthcoming year by Jon Muller, and seconded by Peter Robertson.

#### 6. To Elect Members of the Executive Committee:

The following Trustees were re-elected to the committee:

Bill John- Proposed by Mark Thomas, and seconded by Kerry Blomerous

Jon Muller- Proposed by Kerry Blomerous and seconded by Alison Bowie

#### 7. Enable Ability Manager's Report

Richard Soutar was pleased to say that the 2023-24 financial year has been very positive. Highlights include:

- Funding from the National Lottery for Inter Activ
- 3-5 years funding from Portsmouth City Council for Short Breaks (including the need for us to increase staffing levels by 20% during the summer)
- A change of venue for our Portsmouth Junior Club so we could broaden our range of activities, which led to parents being able to receive additional support & advice from professionals
- Portsmouth Teenage Project & Teenage Holiday Scheme continued to provide an exciting programme of activities
- Hampshire Teenage Project struggled to increase attendee figures, so the decision was made to close it, but a 25+ Club will be starting in the autumn
- The demand for Inter Activ continues to grow, with around 45 participants currently on the programme. The project has created a very strong reputation with providers such as Job Centre Plus. The project is well received, and we have a growing number of successful case studies we can share. Thanks were made to Sharon, Pete and Karen for their hard work.
- Landport Community Centre continues to be an asset for us- It has a variety of hirers; it's a space for funded play scheme and our Advocacy service; and is home to the very popular larder which now has over 600 members
- We held 2 large fundraising events (the Barn Dance and Auction), which with the latter, we were pleased to showcase our newest video
- Tribute paid to Walk the Island fundraising group for raising over £24,500 for our Wheelchair Basketball Club

Richard thanked staff, volunteers and Trustees for all their hard work, and welcomed on board our 3 newest Trustees. He also thanked Joe for his role as Honorary Treasurer, and for all his commitment he has given to the charity for the past 20 years.

Richard thanked everyone for coming along this evening.

## 8. Chairman's Comments

Jon Muller thanked staff, volunteers, Trustees, Partners and Funders for another successful year. He said it has been another good year for Enable Ability, with our highest level of income achieved (£1.4 Million) since the charity began. Our accounts are now online.

We have created 2 additional activities, with 1 in the pipeline. The continued success of Landport Community Centre is reaping benefits, and is reaching out to the harder-to-reach communities, and providing much needed support for the whole community (especially through the larder).

Inter Activ is developing all the time, and we are looking to create a 'TechHub' as a base for many of the workstreams.

### Statistics

This year, we have:

- Provided 20% more hours of support at Playscheme
- Supported 20% more children through Child Befriending
- Provided 22% more hours of support at Adult Befriending
- Supported higher level needs children at Saturday Club
- IA has supported 36 participants, which is an increase of 38% from 2023
- Maintained or increased our services via Advocacy, WCBB, Youth & Teenage Projects

### Fundraising

We raised £34,920 via 57 different sources- this excludes larger grants and charitable giving which brings the total to £72,836.

Jon said these figures really show the value of partnerships, and thanked Hollie, the Fundraising Group and the Funding Council for their hard work. We are looking forward to applying for larger bids for the next financial year, to include the National Lottery, Henry Smith Foundation, and more.

Jon thanked our Managers, Richard, Julie and Alan, who have led the paid side of the organisation with commitment and professionalism, and added thanks to the Trustees who have also worked so hard this year. He welcomed the charity's newest Trustees to the Board- Sue, Peter and Mark, and said they will bring so much support and knowledge to the charity. Jon also mentioned Dan Davies, whom we lost this year. Dan was a very big part of Portsmouth and a number of local charities/ community groups- we have a memorial on the wall at Landport Community Centre to remember him.

Joe, our longstanding Treasurer of 20+ years is retiring. Jon mentioned all the wonderful work Joe has done in steering the charity's finances, as well as taking on a great number of additional tasks on a daily basis. Joe has kept us all informed when finances were running low, but was always positive that something would turn up. We are delighted though, that Joe is going to become an Enable Ability Patron- so he's not totally off the radar.

We welcome Katie, our new Finance Officer, and we are looking for a new Honorary Treasurer.

### The Future

Jon said that there are significant financial barriers affecting all charities due to the impact of the National minimum wage and cost of living crisis. We received a buffer in the form of a Legacy Grant from the Edward Gostling Foundation of £250,000, but that doesn't detract from what is a difficult

time. He continued to say that there are funding applications in the pipeline for our Social Enterprise, and we are really working on building more productive corporate partnerships. Our Strategic Plan is being reviewed this autumn, working towards a 5-10 year plan.

#### Action Plan

We will-

- Review our assets
- Focus on Fundraising
- Keep activities within budget
- Ensure our premises operate efficiently and effectively
- Focus on Legacy's
- Ensure our staff have the training they need to move forward

In summary, we remain a dynamic organisation – we don't stand still. There are a number of initiatives in the pipeline. Balancing our income and expenditure will be a challenge, hence the need for a strategic review, and with Joe retiring, we are in a period of change. We will continue to focus on the activities and services needed by our service users, participants and families.

Jon finished the meeting by thanking everyone for coming.

#### 9. AOB

None to discuss

The meeting closed at 8:05pm.