

**Minutes of Stretford Public Hall Board Annual General meeting held on Sunday 11 October 2020
at Stretford Public Hall and via Zoom
3 pm finishing 4 pm**

Present: 53 attendees confirmed that this was 5% of the membership and constituted a quorum

Board members:

Dan Williamson (Chair)
Simon Borkin (Treasurer)
Petra Morris (Secretary / minutes)
Lisa Heanley
Christine Duffin
Charlotte O'Mara
Michelle Farrington
Chris Lee
Anthony Williams
John Naughton

1	Introduction. Due to the combination of both online and physical attendees we were unable to individually introduce all board members.
2	The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were agreed as a correct record and formally approved
3	Presentation.
3.1	Queens Award for Voluntary Service presented by Susan Craig, Deputy Lieutenant and accepted by Board member, Lisa Heanley. The award is a testament to the hard work of all of the volunteers who have got SPH to where it is today. We currently have 52 active volunteers.
4	Achievements Impact Report – Dan Williamson, Chair
4.1	Our people Our excellent Centre Manager Kate McGeevor oversees a fantastic team comprising our longstanding and dedicated Bookings and Events Manager Joanna Jones, Culture Champions Project Co-ordinator Jessica Loveday, Administrator Vic Payne, and our committed Caretaker/ Cleaner Mark Etherington. We have also been grateful for the support of our bookkeeper Imogen Thomas, from Third Sector Accountancy.
4.2	Impact Report 2020 marks the five year anniversary of Friends of Stretford Public Hall securing the freehold of Stretford Public Hall and getting the keys to the building. To mark our fifth anniversary, we are producing a Social Impact Report, to capture the impact that the organisation has had during our first five years of trading. The report will be published in November and we shared some highlights of the report. Since we took over the building in 2015: 44 different community groups and charities have hired space at the hall 57 small businesses and local organisations have hired space commercially Provided space for over 110 local organisations. In February 2020, before lockdown, we had 8 weekly bookings who run activities for the

public.

Since August, the Hall has reopened for room bookings, in line with government guidance.

Stretford Children's Theatre reformed in 2015 following the reopening of the hall. In December 2019, the group held their first Christmas show at the hall. It was sell-out! Running over three days and attended by 100s of people.

Last year, a new dementia-friendly singing together group started at the hall - meeting every Monday. The group have been meeting online recently but are due to return to the hall this month.

On average, almost 250 people per week attend regular weekly activities at the hall.

Our artist studio is home to 15 local artists & 14 freelancers are currently tenants in our co-working space.

Since 2015 when we opened, these spaces have provided workspace for 28 local artists, 34 different freelancers and an additional 12 small businesses and organisations – 74 businesses in total.

5500 attendees to cultural events since 2015

52 different cultural events delivered, including community cinema nights

Almost 600 people attended the launch night of our **2019 Stretford Arts Exhibition**, with another 735 people attending over the weekend. The exhibition featured the work of 60 local artists.

Despite the challenges of lockdown, **Trafford Culture Champions project** has continued this year with seven projects currently underway. The projects includes:

- a film club for the over 50s, being set up by Trafford African and Caribbean club
- cycle mechanic training for older volunteers
- a street art 'Stretford Wall of Fame', with portraits painted by a local older artist

During lockdown, we have supported our tenants and have been grateful for their support.

Both Lofthouse and the Artist Studio have waiting lists and we continue to receive enquiries about the space on a regular basis.

In the past five years, we have raised over **£1million** to invest in the restoration and running of Stretford Public Hall!

In March of this year, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, FOSPH mobilised to set up the **Stretford Community Response Hub**

We were one of six hubs operating across Trafford, providing emergency support to local residents who needed help during lockdown. A team of over 30 volunteers stepped up to support the hub's activities, delivering emergency foodbank parcels, collecting and delivering prescriptions, answering phone calls, and helping people with their shopping.

Where are we now:

Hall is currently open for activities but planning to invest in more equipment to go digital
Working on a new website which we hope to launch early in 2021

Reviewing our business plan

Our future plans for 2021

Developing more digital activities – we have funding from the national lottery to develop online centre

In March 2021 we will be operating as a census support centre, helping people to complete their online census
Establishing a community information service, in partnership with Trafford Citizens Advice
Planning a series of celebratory events in January / February, to mark the completion of the Ballroom project
Weddings booked for 2021

5 Director's Report (trustee report)

5.1 To receive the Director's Report (trustee report) and the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 which were circulated in advance and saved [here](#)
Simon Borkin, Treasurer presented the annual draft accounts which have been prepared by professional accountants in line with audit guidelines. Up to March the accounts were very health. In response to COVID we quickly reforecast our budgets and income projections. We were able to access emergency grants to cover the fall in trading income.
We repurposed our activities as a Community Response Hub and received Trafford Council Funding, also Forever Manchester grant.
Loan repayment – we were able to negotiate a delay to repayments.
Despite the lack of trading, we continue to be in a stable financial position.

Question

What will be our future activities given Covid impact?
We can't do as much in the hall but we are delivering other grant funded activities such as a new digital project.
Big thank you from one person

The Financial report was unanimously adopted by members

6 Shareholder interest payments and withdrawals

6.1 **Proposal:** All investor members to be offered 2% interest on their shares but encouraged to opt for the interest to be credited to their share account and added to your share capital balance to be withdrawn at an appropriate time in the future. Furthermore, investors will also be able to forgo interest on their shares altogether, should they wish to
We will begin to allow members to withdraw their shares from April 2021, in line with the original share offer document. We will be working on plans over the next few months to hopefully allow some level of withdrawals

Over 800 investors interest 2% contact forego, credit interest to your share account £2 £100

Question

Margaret is 2% too high for this year given interest on bank accounts?
Simon answer: it's a fair level and we committed to this in share offer. interest 2% contact forego, credit interest to your share account £2 £100
Question: Are there opportunities to purchase more shares
Simon Answer: Yes, we are looking at an open share offer.

Proposal approved

7 Ballroom transformation

7.1 We are midway through our Ballroom Renovation. Members were shown a virtual tour (film)

of the project during the AGM. The project is costing £380,000 and will be completed in early January. In addition to the capital investment in the ballroom, the roof and the lift, FOSPH have spent an additional £50k on repairs and maintenance at the hall, since 2015 We have appointed Buttress to undertake a new Building Condition Survey, which will be used to inform future capital development.

8 Resignation and election of directors

8.1 12 places on the Board. Following board members resigned and re-elected: Michelle Farrington, Christopher Lee and Charlotte O'Mara
New board members for election who co-opted during the year John Naughton, Anthony Williams (Treasurer)
New nomination Liz Mahy
Nominations are now closed but opportunities to become observer member and then subsequently stand for election at Board
Voting in a block NOT individual members
Following board members resigned during the year: Lisa Heanley, Junaid Patel, Jonny Haslam
There were no contested elections and members approved elected Board

9 Final thank you's

9.1 Board members - especially Lisa, Junaid and Jonny who stood down this year
Staff team
Volunteers - especially all those that supported our activities during lockdown – from the virtual choir to our response hub volunteers
Our funders, and those who have donated
You! Our members & supporters

9.2 The AGM concluded by showing a recording of the Stretford Singers

Final Questions

Census centre confirmed, polling station no formal plans Gina Walker

Wellbeing Tuesday can buy tickets in advance since reopened in Sep. Due to social distancing need to be able to control numbers. In the past able to pay what you can afford. However, as well as normal costs we now have few people and extra cleaning costs.

If further lockdown we are preparing for this by investing in more tech to allow virtual ad live feed classes

Christmas event in car park? Good idea and something to consider.

First time attended in person, bert holling children's theatre? Oral history project

Kevin linston, kind words

Essolda club across the road, Heather's project