



## **Minutes from Stretford Public Hall Board AGM**

**1 November 2024, 6:30-7:30pm.**

**Board members in attendance:** Simon Borkin (Chair), Anthony Williams (Treasurer), Sarah Higham (Secretary), Christine Duffin, Chris Lee, Claire Bandy, William Kilcoyne.

**Board member apologies:** Hayley Hughes

**Number of members in attendance:** 55 (45 in person/10 on zoom).

### **1. Introductions & welcome**

Simon Borkin (SB) welcomed members to the AGM and congratulated everyone on a successful year.

### **2. Minutes of the Nov 23 AGM**

The minutes from the 2023 AGM had been circulated to members and were approved.

### **3. Director's Report & Accounts 2024**

#### **a. Accounts**

Anthony Williams (AW) presented this year's financial accounts.

Overall income for 23/24 had increased by 15% to £427k, with grant income rising to £169k and rental income rose by 20% to £141k. Expenditure is up by 6% to £414k, ending the year on a small surplus of £5k.

AW noted the reserves position with unrestricted increased slightly on last year to £493k, of which £156k are free reserves ( a 200% increase on the previous year).

AW also noted the fundraising position for the year with £288k through the Community Ownership Fund, £90k through the Community share offer and £126k through the VCSE Energy Efficiency grant programme.

#### **b. Key events**

Kate McGeevor (KM), CEO of FOSPH, presented this year's key events and achievements.



The Share offer raised £45,390 through 210 supports which was then matched by Co-op UK, Co-op and Community Finance raising the fund to £89,930. KM thanked everyone who invested.

Key events:

- This year saw a rise in the number of wedding bookings
- The community hub supported 700 residents through the household support fund, the hall saw 1,000 foodbank referrals and have hosted many community activity events (eg Drumming for wellbeing).
- The Stretford Advice hub pilot was launched in Feb 24 and won the Resolve Poverty Partnership Award from Trafford Council in Oct 24.
- Gardening volunteers have transformed the greenspaces around the hall and have been awarded “Outstanding” at this years RHS “It’s Your Neighbourhood” awards
- The car park redevelopment has been successful with new trees and fruit bushes planted. The bike storage improvement is due to take place in Jan-Feb 25.

Volunteers across FOPSH contributed 4,210 hours of support this year and provided additional events such as: community café, community errands, digital support, English conversation, Friday Fish and Chips, Cinema and Live Music support, Gardening club, guided tours, as well as providing admin, reception, bar and maintenance support across the hall.

Stretfest, organised by Stretford Town Centre Forum volunteers, was another great success for FOSPH in 2024. Funding has been secured for the next festival which will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**c. Update on the building renovations**

KM presented the latest capital updates: with roofing works, insulation and LED light updates (costing approximately £419k) to be completed by December. KM explained the conditions of the COF funding and confirmed that the Hall has received an extension allowing for the project to continue into Winter. KM confirmed that planning application was granted for the additional work funding by VCSE with work continuing until January 2025. KM confirmed there is contingency available should the works uncover any additional areas of need.



**4. Approve interest payments & withdrawals**

SB confirmed the FOSPH will pay 2% interest on community investment this year unless they have selected to waive interest via the online portal. As of next year, all shares will be subject to the same Terms and Conditions, and on an annual basis we will manage withdrawal requests via the AGM.

**5. Resignation & election of Directors**

SB introduced the board members online and in the hall. There have been three resignations this year (Christine Henderson, Petra Morris, Venessa Scott), he thanked them for their contribution to the hall over the years. And welcomed Claire Bandy and William Kilcoyne to the board.

**6. AOB & questions**

A member thanked the staff and board for their continued support and hard work.

There were no further comments from those in person nor those on zoom. The meeting was therefore closed and attendees were invited to join the staff and board at the new “The Pub” event in the main foyer.