

Ballynahinch Community Collective

Minutes of AGM Meeting: Wednesday 31st May 2023 @ 7.00pm

Present: Lise Curran CDRCN, Audrey Slater, Richard Orme, Caroline Davidson, Gareth Lyttle, William Slater, Annette Bayfield, Mark Kent (Choice Housing), Andrew Kernaghan, Terry Andrews, Harry Harvey MLA, Sharon Harvey, David Lee-Surginor, Tierna Kelly, Faith McDowell (First Church Scout Group)

Apologies: Ellen Brennan, Frances Flannagan

1. Welcome (Audrey Slater)

Audrey gave an overview of the work carried out in the last year by BCC. There were outreach activities during Covid, and since this the group continued the walking group but it slowed down and some weeks nobody turned up so it was decided to pause this for the meantime.

The group held online events for residents in local care homes, and realised there are many people feeling lonely and isolated. The group aims to find ways to include these people and make them feel valued. Mark at Choice Housing along with Gareth from Harry's Place held a cross community event. It was apparent that daytime events work for many of the above-mentioned people and there is a town bus to help with transport. Audrey mentioned that there are new ethnic cultures to embrace too. The group have produced an Action Plan which includes the Halloween, Christmas and a Summer event. There is a tree planting scheme for all the schools in the town in conjunction with Choice Housing, and we have also carried out several litter picks.

Audrey expressed gratitude to the local politicians for their help and support.

2. Treasurer's Report (Caroline Davidson)

Opening balance	£ 1,864.81
Income	£17,518.00
Expenditure	£17,612.80
Closing balance	£ 1,862.01

Funding has been received from Newry Mourne and Down Council, Big Lottery Fund, and Choice Housing, Elevate and CDRCN

The group have purchased ipads which can be used for future events.

3. Election of Office Bearers

Lise introduced herself and the committee was stood down

It was proposed by Richard Orme and seconded by Caroline Davidson that the same committee be re-elected

New member Faith McDowell as proposed by Richard Orme and seconded by Annette Bayfield

Lise confirmed with each member if they would like to continue in the same roles

Richard Orme congratulated Audrey on stepping up and settling in, she is doing a fantastic job. Lise seconded this.

Committee

Audrey Slater – Chairperson

Richard Orme – Vice Chairperson

Caroline Davidson – Treasurer

Annette Bayfield – Secretary

Gareth Lyttle

William Slater

Frances Flannagan

Faith McDowell – new member

4. Minutes for last AGM were agreed

5. AOB

Audrey appealed for new members

Terry Andrews thanked BCC for their sterling work over the years and for working tirelessly and ceaselessly. He wished the BCC all the best for the year ahead

Harry Harvey congratulated members and told everyone he was here to help – That's their job and not to hesitate to contact them

Mark Kent from Choice Housing congratulated the volunteers working in the committee and said he was excited about the upcoming programme of events in Ballynahinch.

David Lee-Surginor congratulated the BCC committee on all their amazing work and said himself and Tierna were more than happy to help in any way they can.

Audrey thanked everyone for their support and vote of confidence and also thanked Harry's Place CIC for providing the catering for the AGM. The next meeting will be arranged in due course.