

Minutes of the Leicester City of Sanctuary AGM 2018

Saturday 9th June, Readson House, 96-98 Regents Road

1. Attendance and Apologies and special notes

- **In attendance:** Ajay Aggarwal, Anju Baroi, Peter Baroi, Chris Bullough, Shali Bullough, Sonia Bullough, Eric Nkundomubano, Judy Brittenden, Alex Jakeman, Karen Rooms, Colleen Molloy, Geof Woodruff, Ben Margolis, Maggie Edgington, Margaret Bonney, Mark Wilkinson, Phil Hardy, Phil Horspool, Rosemary Ogwuiké, Sherri Wong, Sylvia John, Cloud Chunga, Jenny Dnes, Annie Merton, Tess Newman, Ramajit Kumari, Eileen McKellican, David Wigginton, Pete Hobson
- **Apologies from:** Mick Walker, Angela Walker, Jenny Westmoreland, Sadiq Baba, Sam Javid & Miriam Levene
- **Special welcome** was given to Ben Margolis, the newly appointed CoS Regional Co-ordinator and to Colleen Molloy as CoS National Development Officer (and also a member of LCoS locally)

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM for the former unincorporated charity were received

3. Annual Report for 2017 - 18

The Annual Report for 2017-18 was distributed and Shali Bullough, co-ordinator, spoke to some of the highlights for the year:

- Reaffirmation of the mission of the charity, as designed in 2007, and the success of the drop-in, growing from approximately 8 at start-up to around 80+ attendees on average to the current weekly drop-in at Holy Cross
- Development of the charity into CIO
- Challenges faced by the charity in May 2017 when People's Project funding ended, including the securing of future grants
- Efficiency of management of the charity, with special note of thanks to the commitment and dedication of RAS volunteers, who now represent more than half the drop-in volunteers
- Strengthening of relationship with Leicester Football Club, and the new Soccercise exercise classes in the Drop-In
- Cooking classes had been taken over by Soft Touch Arts.
- Hosting of new Creative Writing classes
- The improvement of support for children in the Drop in by Maggie Edgington, including crafts sessions in school holidays and dedicated play corner.
- Strengthening the relationship with Leicestershire Police, and the talks provided by them relating to issues affecting asylum seekers and refugees.
- Numerous trips made throughout the year for asylum seekers and refugees
- Income from new grants, including about £10k from the PCC and about £14k from the Lloyds Enable fund.

Pete Hobson, chair, noted that over the course of the year, Shali had continued to develop her role from volunteer deputy coordinator to the lead coordinator for the organisation, now as an employee. The floor was then opened for Questions.

- Phil Hardy (PH) questioned how the formal OISC training and registration for members of the NEST team would operate. Sherri Wong (SW) answered that Mark had been in contact with Refugee Action in order to get formal training organised; once that had been completed volunteers could be take the qualification, and until then, only general advice could be given.
- Colleen Molloy (CM) asked whether the qualification would be dependant on supervision. SW responded that it would be, and that the Red Cross would provide it.
- PH asked for information on how many of the NEST team were permanent as opposed to being students. Mark Wilkinson responded that the NEST team had 4 permanent members.
- CM requested that we begin to sow the seed of Leicester Football Club applying for status as a Football Club of Sanctuary.
- PH stated that Football clubs often have equalities officers and are especially keen to improve the engagement of women with sport, and whether we would be helping more women get involved.

Pete Hobson spoke about the Trustee Report, the highlights of which were:

- That change was a constant for LCoS, and that there is to be a change with some of the trustees
- That LCoS had formally adopted the national CoS Charter, and that we were the first body to do so.
- Via the Lloyds Enable Grant, LCoS had engaged consultation services with Adrian Masters for the coming year, initially to take place on Friday 15th of June. This meeting would be attended by the Trustees, Management Team and a member of NEST and ESOL. The purpose is to develop a business plan and to assist with development of governance for the organisation
- At their recent meeting (on 6 June) trustees had agreed the following statement: 'Leicester City of Sanctuary aims to provide a safe environment for asylum seekers and refugees. It is therefore politically neutral and does not condone recruitment to political organisations through any of its activities. This does not mean that individuals cannot join political organisations on their own behalf.'
- CM questioned whether this should be embedded in the LCoS Safeguarding Policy, which Pete Hobson agreed could be a good idea. CM added that new information on safeguarding policy design was available on the CoS website.

4. Financial Statement for year ending 31st March 2018 and the independent examiner's report were distributed

Alex Jakeman presented a summary of the Finances for 2017-18.

- Starting sum - £41,490.29

- Total income - £57,417.56
- Total spent - £45,105.68

Ben Margolis asked how much was restricted, versus how much was in general. Alex Jakeman responded that approximately £10,500 was restricted, leaving around £30,000 in the General Fund.

Colleen Molloy asked whether the destitution fund was designated; Alex Jakeman responded that the destitution fund was drawn from General, through Petty Cash and so came from unrestricted funds. Colleen Molloy suggested that a separate fund should be considered, as this could help with fundraising and allow donations specifically for the Destitution Fund to be tracked. Pete stated that this would be considered by trustees.

Anju Baroi stated that the volunteers have their whole bus fare paid at the Drop-In, but service users only receive 50%, and asked whether more could be paid. Shali Bullough responded that this could be considered, but no answer could be immediately given.

Colleen Molloy asked what was being done with the PCC fund. Shali Bullough responded that the Police were regularly visiting the drop-in to deliver talks, that the money was being used to fund the football pitch, a trip to the police station and for awareness raising in schools..

The meeting formally received the accounts for the year and the Independent Examiner's Report.

5. Election of Trustees for 2018-19

Pete informed the AGM that this had been a year of transition, with two trustees co-opted in October to add value to the elected body. One who would be standing for re-election (Jenny Dnes) and one who would not (Mark Wilkinson). He added that neither Annie Merton, nor John Missenkindu had stood for re-election.

Annie Merton was thanked for her excellent work as vice-chair as she stood down after three years' service.

Four nominations had been duly received by the deadline for four vacant places. Each introduced themselves, and it was put to the meeting by the chair that they be elected. This was approved with none against and the following were declared elected:

Ajay Aggarwal, Margaret Bonney, Jenny Dnes and Eric Nkundumubano

Returning trustees: Pete Hobson, Sam Javid and Golden Ngwenya

6. Any Members' business

7. The chair then invited Ben Margolies to introduce himself as newly appointed regional co-ordinator which he did. There will be a Midlands regional meeting on 20 October in Wolverhampton which he hoped many from Leicester would be able to attend.

No additional business was raised.

Guest Speaker: Revd Karen Rooms spoke movingly about the installation 'Suspended - in search of light' by war artist Arabella Dorman, which was to be launched in the Cathedral on 20 June and remain there for 10 weeks until the journeys Festival at the end of August.