**YOUTH WITH A FUTURE**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL 2022**

1. The AGM was opened in prayer by Ann Ralls who also read from the Bible from Philippians 1 verses 3-6. She then welcomed everyone and especially Cassie Morris our speaker from Edventure Frome.
2. Present: Ann (Chair) & Gary Ralls, Nick May (Treasurer), Sue Crisfield (Secretary), Keith Wetherill & Jane Copestake (Trustees), Carol Plenty (YMCA Rep), Ron Kann, Cassie Morris, Chris Pointon, Gill Goodall, Gabriel Ralls.
3. Apologies: Angela Yeoman, Nik Harwood & Ruth Gavenlock (Young Somerset), Sue Paxton (The Pod Frome), Becky Skinner (YWAF Trustee), Karen Deverell (Patron) & Cllr Matt Harrison.
4. The minutes of the 2020 AGM were approved with no matters arising.
5. Chairperson’s report:

Ann Ralls started by acknowledging the death of Ruth Lyde in December 2021. She was a sterling and generous supporter of YWAF and will be greatly missed.

Ann reported that it has been another year hugely affected by the COVID pandemic, but we have been grateful that we have at least managed to have a couple of face-to-face meetings during the year and also finally managed to do a small fundraising activity before Christmas (thank you Sue) and a more substantial one in January 2022.

The finance and secretary’s reports show that we have managed to more than cover costs and continue to give to the YMCA and other agencies during this time when the needs of young people have been as great - if not greater - than usual and thanks to all of the YWAF committee for their continued effort and support during this time.

Ann especially thanked Sue who has continued throughout the year to apply for funding when and wherever she can - with amazing success.

Ann thanked Nick for keeping all the accounts up together and for sorting out all the payments going out and all donations / grants coming in.

Ann thanked Carol who represents the YMCA at all YWAF meetings - her reports are so important to keep the committee enthusiastic as they tell us where the money is going and the difference it makes to the young people.

Ann also thanked Bethan Crisfield for running our Facebook page; and Ben Shimmin for keeping our website up to date and organised.

During the year we have managed to complete a PowerPoint presentation to be used to raise our profile (and hopefully donations) by speaking at events like Lions Club meetings / WI etc. We have also put together some display boards to take to fundraising events. Ann thanked Becky and Sue for their work with this. Sue has already used it for a Lions Club meeting, resulting in a donation.

We have continued to give the YMCA funding for activities, emergencies, welcome vouchers and Christmas gift vouchers. This year we have provided two tablet devices each for Frome and Street Foyers. We have also provided money for essential clothing and shoes for some young people. We have also given grants to the “Make Shed” in Frome, to the YMCA Young Carers’ Group, and to provide a fridge for the Street Young People’s Centre.

Going forward, the needs of young people seem to get ever greater. We are currently considering further funding for the “Make Shed” and also looking into funding more counselling sessions for young people via Wessex counselling services. These are organisations we have previously helped, both dealing with mental health issues. The mental health of young people cannot be ignored, it is paramount to them being able to improve their present and give them hope for a better future.

As an organisation YWAF wants to continue to do what it is doing, but it wants to be able to offer more support and help, especially as young people try to pick up the threads of their life again after COVID. Hopefully in the coming year we will be able to do some of the fundraising activities that we had planned for last year and were unable to do. We are delighted that we can provide another team of volunteers at the Glastonbury festival – this is our biggest fund raiser, providing a team of 36 volunteers, ably led by Jackie Garbett We are hopeful that we might finally manage the Mamma Mia singalong too!

We need donations, we have space for more people to join the committee and we need more members and people to volunteer with fundraising activities. If you are interested in helping in any way, if you have ideas for fundraising or just a heart for young people who are struggling, please let us know.

1. Secretary’s Report:

Sue reported that 2021 was another difficult year in so many ways, not least in the realm of fund-raising for our work to support young people in the Mendip area. As we were unable to organise any fundraising events, Sue sent lots of letters to grant-making trusts and applied to two funds.  Mostly the funding letters don’t receive a response but we were lucky and received a £1,200 grant from the Mabel Cooper Charitable Trust and a £1,000 donation from a private local donor.

We also received £2,000 from the KFC Foundation and £1,000 from Somerset Community Foundation’s Glastonbury Solidarity Fund (a fund set up to try to support some of the organisations that usually benefit from the Glastonbury Festival).  Of course, in previous years, we have received around £3,000-£4,000 from our team at Glastonbury Festival and we are delighted that Jackie Garbett and her team have been asked to return to the festival in 2022!

Sue ran a small stall in Shepton Mallet at the St Peter & St Paul’s Church Christmas Fair, selling creamy slow-cooked hot chocolate and raising £50 – every little helps!

Becky Skinner and Sue prepared a new PowerPoint presentation that we can show to local groups to raise awareness about our work and in December used it with the Glastonbury and Street Lions Club who then generously donated £100 to us.

At Christmas Sue did an appeal through the churches in Shepton Mallet for Christmas gifts for the young people living in the YMCA supported housing schemes and the guests at Windsor Hill Wood and was able to take some lovely gifts and Christmas goodies to Carol at the YMCA for distribution.

As Covid restrictions lifted, we were able to organise our pub quiz which was held on 31 January in the Well Inn, Shepton Mallet – it was such a fun evening which raised £380.50 – we had a full house of 12 teams and some amazing raffle prizes.  Special thanks to Dave Crisfield for all his preparation as Quiz Master.  We will make this an annual event and have already booked the Well Inn again for Sunday 29 January 2023 so please put it in your diary and bring a team!

Sue hopes to organise another fund-raiser towards the end of 2022 – hopefully a Mamma Mia sing-along – watch this space!  Please follow us on our YWAF Somerset Facebook page where we share information and events.

Thank you for your support in 2021 – please become a member for £5 per year and if you can help with organising any fund-raising events, please let us know.

1. Treasurer’s Report

YWAF was constituted in September 2002 upon the winding-down of Shepton Housing Association Limited (SHAL) and is a registered charity (no. 1094485).

SHAL’s surplus funds of £35,417 were transferred across to YWAF in order to continue ‘working with young people of Mendip’. Looking back since inception YWAF has raised income of £113,847 and expended £134,009.

 YWAF’s 2021 Accounts are noted opposite for receiving at the forthcoming AGM, independently examined and approved by the YWAF trustees.

Key numbers for the year ended 31 December 2021 can be summarised as follows:

Income - £8,585 Expenditure - £6,157 Net Surplus - £2,428

 Cash at bank at 31 December 2021 was £15,255 (2020 - £12,827).

2021 income at £8,585 was 128% higher compared with the prior year.  Income was derived from three main sources: subscriptions & donations (£7,982); fundraising (£601); and bank deposit interest (£1).  Although there was no Glastonbury Festival event again this year due to the Covid pandemic, any resulting income shortfall was more than covered by generous donations from a number of organisations and individuals. Most grateful thanks to all involved in donating or raising funds for YWAF during the year.

 2021 expenditure at £6,157 was 41% lower compared with the prior year.  Money given to young people and their supporting organisations in the Mendip area was divided between YMCA Mendip grants (52%) and other youth grants (46%). Administration costs (2%) accounted for the remainder.

Grants for the two primary YMCA Mendip locations – Frome and Street Foyers - were divided between Welcome vouchers for new residents (12 in 2021, 9 in 2020), Activity and Emergency funding, and Christmas vouchers. Eleven other youth grants (6 in 2020) were awarded: six to individuals and five to organisations.

The YWAF trustees meet and correspond regularly to consider all funding requests. Updated financial statements are supplied at each committee meeting.

 2021 recorded a £2,428 surplus (2020 £6,744 deficit) and has been added to cash reserves.  There were total cash reserves of £15,255 at 31 December 2021, classified as unrestricted general. Such reserves are estimated to represent two and a half years’ (2020 two years’) normal forward expenditure cover. Reserves cover will be variable bearing in mind the future funding requirements of YMCA Mendip and its residents, also the levels of annual fundraising income. Reserve levels increased in 2021 from a combination of higher income and lower expenditure.

 Members will be provided with an update of YWAF's latest financial position at the AGM on 25 April. 2022 will hopefully see, post pandemic, some welcome income again from the Glastonbury Festival.

The current set of accounts were received by those present.

1. Election of the Committee – all current trustees are happy to stand again for another year and were duly nominated, seconded and unanimously voted to continue
2. Speaker – Cassie Morris from Edventure Frome who outlined the work they undertake with young adults aged 18-30 in Frome and surrounding area through their Routes drop-in sessions to provide a listening ear and signposting and support for vulnerable young adults who are struggling with a range of issues, and the Make Shed which brings young adults together to learn new skills, crafts & things, upcycling, reducing waste etc. YWAF funds contribute to the running of both services.

Make Shed information here - <https://edventurefrome.org/events/shed/>

Routes drop-in sessions here - <https://edventurefrome.org/routes-2/>

1. Q&A/Comments to Trustees – Carol Plenty asked for it to be minuted that YMCA is very grateful for all the support that YWAF provides to the young people using their services.
2. Ann thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting, which concluded with more refreshments.