

The Shrewsbury Ark – Shrewsbury Christian Centre Association (SCCA)

Annual General Meeting, 7pm, July 2nd, 2024

At The Shrewsbury Ark Day Centre

- | 1 | Welcome to our AGM and apologies | Actions or Agreements |
|---|---|---|
| | <p>In attendance:
Elaine Adams (Guest), Emily Bell (Chair), Jonathan Davies (Trustee), Mike Haffenden (Trustee), Dee Hancock (Volunteer), Richard Jenkins (Trustee), Abbie King (Charity Director), Sue Kirkbright (Employee), Liz Knowles (Volunteer), Rev. Sam Mann (St Chads), Clair Moelwyn-Williams (TCA), Tony Sharpe (Volunteer), Ian Somerville (Trustee), Liz Somerville (Guest), Jane Shaw (Treasurer), Ruth Shaw (Volunteer), Mike Saull (Volunteer), Kim Tunbridge (Employee) and Annie Waddington-Feather (Trustee).</p> <p>The chair welcomed everyone to the AGM.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Jill Robinson, Chris Walker and Laura Fisher and Rev. Sarah Bullock.</p> | |
| 2 | Minutes of AGM 2023 sign off | Minutes of AGM 2023 agreed as an accurate record. |
| | <p>Jane Shaw proposed that the minutes of the last meeting be agreed as an accurate record, Tony Sharpe seconded.</p> | |
| 3 | Char report's Report – Emily Bell | |
| | <p>The Chair reminded the AGM of the charitable objectives of the charity.</p> <p>The Chair reported on how The Ark has transitioned in the last year. The Ark had become a dangerous place to be and work, despite good intentions. In October 2023 the day centre closed, and The Ark strategy was reviewed. The staff created a new service provision, and a day centre touch point was created at St Chad's.</p> <p>KPIs were created to help understand how to run The Ark, prioritising safety.</p> <p>A new staff structure was created in order to keep the organisation safe and operations running safely.</p> | |

The Chair reported on client feedback which was very positive of the new systems.

The Chair thanked everyone for their support over the last year.

4 **Charity Director's Report – Abbie King**

The Director thanked the AGM for their welcome. The Director talked about changes to staffing and team building.

The recent fundraiser raised over £4.5k.

Grant applications have gone well, we have been granted £20K from The National Lottery. Plans for future fundraising were explained and thanks were given for public donations and purchases from the Amazon wish list.

The shop refurb was noted.

Volunteers were thanked for their continued support for The Ark.

It was noted that The Ark works effectively with colleagues from Shropshire Council, and as a result of the collaboration housing needs are being addressed quicker and in a more effective manner.

Prescriptive support has been put in place for clients in temporary accommodation in order to empower people.

5 **Treasurer's report – Jane Shaw**

(1) Adoption of the Accounts as at 30 Sept 2023

The accounts will be available and on The Ark website. They have been examined by TCA accountants who were at the meeting – thanks from the Treasurer for their support.

Up to September 2023 the client numbers increased, and utility costs increased as a result. Grants are more challenging to successfully receive due to increased demand from charitable organisations.

The public continue to be incredibly generous with their donations. The building has had ongoing maintenance.

A proposal to adopt the accounts was made by Jonathan Davies and was seconded by Ian Somerville.

Recently retired staff from the shop were thanked.

The charity has still been able to maintain a small surplus, despite no government or council support.

(2) Confirmation of treasurer for Oct 2024

Jane Shaw is standing down as Treasurer at end of financial year. She gave thanks for support from fellow Trustees and to volunteer bookkeeper Natalie who has supported the Treasurer.

*(3) Appointment of TCA as Independent Examiners for 2024
Accounts*

Thanks to Clair Moelwyn-Williams and Sally Youngman for their excellent work.

Thanks were given to the Treasurer by the Chair.

A proposal that Richard Jenkins take over as Treasurer was made by Jane Shaw and seconded by Ian Somerville.

A proposal that TCA accountants be appointed again was made by Jane Shaw and seconded by Richard Jenkins.

6 Talk from Rev. Sam Mann, St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

Rev. Sam Mann spoke, quoting Isaiah 43:1:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name"

Sam stated that our names are God given and every client has a name which means they are a unique person in the sight of God and humanity. People are human beings and those who dehumanise clients of The Ark and call them 'the homeless' forget that they are people.

Clients are loved by The Ark and The Ark rejoices in what makes them special and using their name is powerful and restores their humanity.

Ian Somerville thanked Rev. Sam for regularly visiting The Ark and supporting us.

7 Thank you to those who have moved on

The Chair thanked people who have moved on:

Evelyn Gregory – Trustee
Chloe Ann Manley – Support Worker
Gerry Crowe – Manager
Kate Jones – Admin Support
Ruth Epsom – Admin Support
June Howells – Shop Manager
Jackie King – Deputy Shop Manager
Beth Petersohn – Support Worker
Tony Sharpe - Trustee

8 Welcome to those who have joined in the last year

The Chair welcomed those who have joined in the last year:

Helen Mason – Support Worker
Abbie King – Ark Charity Director
Kim Tunbridge – Ark Charity Co-Ordinator
Sue Kirkbright – Shop Manager
Emma Lawn – Shop Team Leader
Alan and the fish
Rose Greenslade in her new role as Day Centre Manager

9 Remembering those we have lost

Rev Sam remembered those we have lost and said a prayer for them:

Mr Graham Downes
Mr Douglas Ryan
Ms Justina Winson

10 **Any other Business**

Constitution states that 1/3 of the longest serving Trustees must be reselected, if they wish to stand.

The new Vice Chair is Jill Robinson.

Ian Somervaille, Jane Shaw and Annie Waddington-Feather.

The Chair re-elected all Trustees and was seconded by every attendee.

Question from AGM on whether all people are being supported who are in need.

It was explained that the reopening of The Ark has to be a slow and measured process.

Clients who wish to hang out and socialise can encourage anti-social behaviour.

By October there will be more clients, but the strategy now is to empower clients to move forward and create their own lives.

Safety and security had to be prioritised in order that The Ark is allowed to continue to run.

Partner organisations working together have created a wrap around care for people.

Groups for skills and hobbies are encouraging empowerment.

New homeless people are picked up quickly and no longer sleep rough for longer periods.

Clients are volunteering in the shop and building experience in retail. Clients have supported renovating the shop.

People will be supported through schemes like Willowdene and must engage with them.

Working with colleagues like Barnabas help joined up thinking.

Meeting closed at 8.08pm.