



FAITH IN ACTION

helping with homelessness

Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 21 January 2025, 6pm online via Zoom

Those present:

Trustees/Members: Bernie McAlister, Barry Angel, Martin Bushaway, Clive Douglas, Caroline Ewart, Robin Goodchild, Carol Graves, Kevin Laws, and Richard Rawes.

Staff: Grace O'Neill, Nicki Zisman, Krysia Koscia, Viv Young

Company Secretary: Sarah Codrington.

Board Secretary: Rachel Law

In attendance: Pauline Southgate, Cllr Stephen Mercer, Cllr Shuile Syeda, Cllr Edward Foley, Oliver Schuh, and Richard Smart

Apologies: Jane Bush, Talat Malik, and Trevor Gray

Bernie McAlister welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the 29 February 2024 AGM were accepted as a correct record.

Election of Trustees and officers

Election of Trustee: Kevin Laws was elected as Trustee and appointed as Member, following his previous co-opted status. Proposed by Bernie McAlister, seconded by Robin Goodchild, elected unanimously.

Re-election of Trustees: the FIAMHP Articles of Association 2020 state: *"One-third of Trustees must retire at each AGM, and may be re-elected as long as their term of office does not exceed nine consecutive years."*

The following Trustees stood for re-election by Members: Bernie McAlister, Barry Angel, and Richard Rawes. Proposed by Robin Goodchild, seconded by Martin Bushaway, elected unanimously.

Election of Chair: There being no other nominations, Bernie McAlister was nominated by Barry Angel, seconded by Clive Douglas, elected unanimously.

Election of Treasurer: Kevin Laws was elected as Treasurer: nominated by Bernie McAlister, seconded by Richard Rawes, elected unanimously.

Election of Company Secretary:

Sarah Codrington was nominated by Bernie McAlister, seconded by Richard Rawes, elected unanimously.

Treasurer's report by Kevin Laws. See the Trustees Annual Report & Accounts, plus the Treasurer's report circulated. The Independent Examination of the accounts produced a

clear report. Thank you to Kevin for his work on supplying the Independent Examiners with what they needed.

Massive thanks to Pauline Southgate for all her dedicated work over many years in maintaining the accounts in excellent order. Kevin Laws is also very grateful to Pauline for her detailed briefing and handover of the Treasurer role.

The first draft budget for the current financial year showed a deficit larger than is now forecast. Trustees developed an action plan and ensured that it was put into effect. A re-engagement with Merton faith groups and other organisations has encouraged individual donations and fundraising events, and we are also very grateful for the large support provided by staff, volunteers and trustees. Richard Rawes and Jane Bush worked hard in applying for grants. Trustees are working towards a sustainable future for Faith in Action. However costs are still higher than the previous year.

Adoption of Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts

Members adopted the Trustees Annual Report & Accounts 2023/24, proposed by Kevin Laws, seconded by Bernie McAlister, agreed unanimously.

Appointment of independent examiners

Kevin Laws proposed that Critchleys LLP or their acquirers should be appointed as independent examiners for the year 2024/25. This proposal was seconded by Bernie McAlister, and the Members agreed unanimously.

Any Other Business

Bernie McAlister stated that this is an opportunity to ask questions and hold Trustees to account. The Open Evening (date to be announced) will be another opportunity for those present to question the Trustees.

Cllr Stephen Mercer stated that he is very supportive of the work of Faith in Action. What more is needed, and what help might be provided by LBM? Trustees to contact Cllr Mercer, sending last year's Trustees Report & Accounts, together with this year's accounts to date plus commentary.

Richard Smart stated that he will be leading another walk around Merton faith group venues on Saturday 31 May. Trustees are very grateful to Richard that this will once again be in aid of Faith in Action.

The meeting closed at 6:30 pm