

**Royston and Wardieburn Community Centre AGM
Thursday, 16 November 2021, RWCC, 14:00-15:30**

In attendance: Mizan Rahman, Mary Mbae, Denise Auld-Manson, Donald McDonald, Anna Hutchison, Kayren Murray, Davy Norcliffe, Billy Fitzpatrick, Irene Agnew, Mahady Chowdhury, Saira Raja, Didarul Islam, Mary Q-Burnside, Willie Black, Silas Mnoti, Barsha Zaman, Helen Bourquin, Lynn McCabe, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Apologies: Mhairi Curran, Cathy Ahmed, Laura Munro, Mohey Rohan

1. Welcome and introduction

Denise Auld-Manson welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked people to have a look at the 2020 Minutes to check for accuracy and matters arising.

2&3. Minutes of the last AGM and matters arising

It was noted that the WiFi coverage had not improved and this affected groups' activities. Helen advised that she will instruct CGI (company that provides IT services) to investigate and report back.

The Minutes were proposed by Anna Hutchison and Seconded by Mary Mbae

ACTION: HELEN TO ASK CGI TO INVESTIGATE WIFI COVERAGE IN RWCC AND REPORT BACK TO COMMITTEE ASAP.

4. Report from the Chairperson and Management Committee

Mizan advised that copies of the Management Committee report for OSCAR are available from the reception desk. The highlights are noted below. He added that it was good to be back in person for the AGM and that the Committee had learned new digital skills during lockdown, which had enabled the Committee to carry on with business.

RWCC closed on 19 March 2020 and reopened to the public in late summer 2021. Despite the building closure some activities continued within the Covid-compliant restrictions outside using a gazebo bought for the purpose. Volunteers and project staff delivered a range of activities and services to the local community across all age groups before and during the various lockdowns:

- **Pilot Programme and Community Lunch** – this brought new people into RWCC to try some of the activities on offer but had to be shut down as concerns about the virus grew.
- **Spring Chickens Group** continued but with lockdown had to refocus. The remaining grant money was repurposed by the project staff and two volunteers to make weekly calls to group members to check on welfare and provide information on restrictions. The programme continued through the summer.
- A successful funding application to the Scottish Government Supporting Communities Fund for £6,100 allowed calls to continue and activity packs were created and delivered to group members. Additional packs were also provided by the NHS and Edinburgh Book Festival.
- A £900 grant from the CEC Community Grants Fund in February 2020 allowed the Spring Chickens to produce a publication that documented their experiences during the pandemic and gave an insight into the issues that people faced.
- An application to the Lottery Fund for the **Life after Lockdown Project** was successful. This project supported Spring Chicken members to re-engage with social and educational opportunities in the community post-lockdown.
- The **Digital Inclusion Project** addressed the problem of digital exclusion within the community. This enabled people to join weekly online get-togethers organised by the Equalities and

Inclusion worker and volunteers as well as organisations like Edinburgh Leisure, The Living Memory Association and the National Galleries of Scotland.

- **Time for Change Project** was established in March 2021 to widen support to the community, particularly those who were severely affected by lockdown: people with health conditions, the BAME community, people struggling with mental health or mobility issues. The aim was to give people the capacity to cope when restrictions were removed.
- **GY** are still housed within RWCC and the Committee is working with them to try to expand their services in RWCC.
- Partnerships with the Granton Community Gardeners and PCHP are ongoing.

Community event

On 7 October 2021 RWCC celebrated the life of former RWCC Chair and local activist Roberta Blaike by planting an ornamental cherry tree in the grounds. The ceremony was attended by Roberta's friends and family.

Committee member resignations

Mizan announced that the Treasurer, Mary Mbae had resigned from the Committee. Mizan thanked Mary for her eight years of service on behalf of the MC. While not a Committee member, thanks were also made to Pauline Fordyce (LLL) who had been involved in many successful projects and events in RWCC.

5. Annual Financial statement and Treasurer's report

a) Mary Mbae presented the Treasurer's Report. Online banking proved very helpful in managing the centre's finances during lockdown and while the Centre was closed.

Income of £38,827.00 for 2020-21 was clearly affected by closure so came from a range of grants (see above). Expenditure was £23,347.00 and related mainly to the projects previously listed. In addition, according to the COSLA agreement and CEC, tertiary staff from the Saturday Drop-in and Breakfast Club were paid for April to June despite closures.

The current balance is £112,868 made up of free reserves £76,546 and restricted funds of £36,322.

As RWCC has reopened, the card machine will now be purchased to allow for electronic payments to be taken.

ACTION: MIZAN TO ORGANISE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF CARD MACHINE.

b) Helen Bourquin advised that there was a sum of around £12k left over from the now defunct Breakfast Club. (CEC now provides Breakfast Club through local primary schools.) A decision had been made not to confuse things by running the Club again for a term and a half but rather to provide holiday activities for the same group of children in 2022. A final decision on what form this will take will be made by the Management Committee.

There was a brief discussion about this and it was acknowledged that there is a real danger that a child in need might fall through the system if they do not attend Granton Primary School. Mizan added that RWCC would like to be able to offer the service for this reason but it was not possible without the funding.

ACTION: MC TO FINALISE DECISION ABOUT HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT DECEMBER 2021 MEETING.

6. Election of RWCC Management Committee members for 2020-21

Apart from the Treasurer's resignation, the current committee was standing for re-election. However Helen had been unable to contact Ashraf Ibrahim, Cathy Ahmed (Umobi) and Louisa Dannochie to check if they wished to be re-elected.

The following members were re-elected on the day: Mizan Rahman, Denise Auld-Manson, Laura Munro, Mhairi Curran, Kayren Murray, Irene Agnew, Davie Norcliffe, Mohey Rehan and Donald McDonald.

The following new members were elected:

Name	Proposed	Seconded
Suzanne Ebel	Mizan Rahman	Denise Auld-Manson
Barsha Zaman	Lynn McCabe	Denise Auld-Manson
Saira Raja	Mizan Rahman	Suzanne Ebel
Billy Fitzpatrick	Mizan Rahman	Davie Norcliffe

7&8. Q&A and AOCB

- a) What was happening with the café? The Centre needs something to draw people in. A few years ago a suggestion had been made that a franchise might run it. Was this feasible? A discussion followed about who used the space and who might be willing to provide a service based on that. A social space is required but it might not take the form of a formal café. Lynn McCabe added that the Time for Change Project does hold an open space when soup is made and shared and the pop-up pantry is open but there are still restrictions on the number of people allowed in the café and behind the counter, which are not helpful.
- b) Wille Black informed attendees that when North Edinburgh Arts closed for the refit, services will move to West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre.
- c) A North Edinburgh Community Day is being organised for 7 May 2022 which will highlight what happens from Silverknowes to Trinity.
- d) The next meeting will be held on 7 December 2021, 18:00 in RWCC, to elect the new committee.