**Upper Eskdale Development Group**

Charity Number: SC043890

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Sunday 10th December 2023

Board members present: Jakki Gunn (chair), Lisa Warden (secretary), James McCulloch (Treasurer), Nancy Chinnery, John Darwell, Ernie Buck

Apologies: Ani Lhamo

Hub Staff present: Lara Porter (Operational Development Manager (ODM)), Adrian Solomon (Accounts), Trudi King-Gunn (Assistant ODM)

There were a total of 23 people present (including the above), totalling 17 members eligible to vote. This is more than the required 10% quorum of members and the AGM therefore proceeded.

A powerpoint presentation accompanied the AGM.

**Chairwoman’s report:**

Jakki started by introducing the individual Board Trustees and highlighted the role and importance of having a good Board, including good governance. She also thanked all present for their roles in helping the community thrive and for supporting the Upper Eskdale Development Group charity.

**Operational Development Manager’s report:**

Lara highlighted a long list of activities and achievements from 2023 and then gave some insight in to some of the plans for 2024. She also invited the community members to get in touch with their thoughts and ideas of what they think the charity should be providing.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

James explained the financial position of the charity, focusing in on income and expenses for year-end of Dec 2023. This shows a likely overall position of net income of minus £2,462. James explained that as a charity we are reliant on donations and grants and that we are not looking to build a profit, however the more surplus that can be generated then the more we can plough back in to helping the local community.

**Special Resolution:**

Prior to the Special Resolution, Lisa explained to the members present what the Articles of Association are and what our 9 Objects are. The Special Resolutions were then voted upon…

Section 12.1 (b)

‘Ordinary members: those individuals aged 18 and over who are entitled to vote at a local government election’

It was proposed to reduce this to aged 16 in line with entitlement to vote in Scottish elections. All members present voted in favour of the change and the motion was carried.

Section 51 – Board structure

States ‘minimum number 5 and not more than 9’ with ‘up to 6 Elected Directors’

It was proposed to increase maximum number to 11 (from 9) with up to 7 Elected (from 6). All members present voted in favour of the change and the motion was carried.

**Elections**

‘1/3 of elected Directors must stand down at each AGM’. Nancy and Lisa stood down with a view to re-election. All members present voted in favour of their re-election so they are duly re-elected.

Ernie Buck announced that he is standing down from the Board from now as he is no longer on the Board of the ESMP Hall. The Board, and members present, thanked him for his continued contribution to the community. Mark Gamblin has subsequently been appointed as the representative for the ESMP Hall.

This left room for two more ‘Elected’ Directors. John Wharton and Martin Towers have both submitted application forms. They introduced themselves to the members present and outlined why they wanted to join the Board. Members voted unanimously in favour of them both joining the Board so they are duly elected.

**Any other business?**

Members present highlighted some areas for development. These included provision of age appropriate activities for the younger members of the community. Lara will work with the parents to try and promote inclusion of this group as they are the future of our community. Parents also recognise the need for them to work together as a group to facilitate activities.

The use of social media and advertising materials was also discussed with a view to raising the profile of the charity and increasing footfall within the Community Hub. This is with an overall goal of increasing income to reinvest in community projects. Trudi will consider available technologies and members of the community with this skill set were urged to offer their support.

Guest Speaker:

Steven Clark from the Dumfries and Galloway Biosphere gave a short presentation and introduced himself to the community. His role is to help facilitate the networking of community led climate action groups, so that they can inspire and support each other to take action and make a difference within their own communities.