



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 at  
Reading Town Hall and Museum, commencing at 5.30 pm**

**1. ATTENDANCE**

**Board members:**

Di Bateman  
Owen Jell  
Jean Nunn Price  
Andrew Syrett (Treasurer)  
Jo White (Chair)

**Proposed Board member:**

There were 14 other attendees.

**2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Jo welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

**3. 2009 AGM**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were received and noted. They were proposed by JNP as an accurate record of the meeting and seconded by OJ. There were no matters arising.

**4. ANNUAL REPORT 09/10**

The Chair referred to key matters contained in the 2009/10 Annual Report, copies of which were available in the meeting packs. JW drew everyone's attention to the new brochure which contained statistics about co-operatives in the South East and showed an impressive total turnover for the region in the last year of just over £3,333m.

JW recognised that some of the activities of the Board were quite remote from the members on the ground. Two newsletters had been issued around the region and a survey of members was carried out asking what format future communications should take. She said communications were only as good as the information received and asked the meeting to make CSE aware of any newsworthy stories.

Fourteen new members had joined CSE in the last year but the organisation worked on behalf of all co-operatives in the south east region as well.

Work had been carried out with the se2 partnership who provide a voice for social enterprise in the region. They have been working with policy makers and have won a contract with the Office of the Third Sector to improve access to business enterprise services. JW introduced Rachel Crossey from se2 to the attendees.

JW said that CSE had been delighted to act as lead partner for SEASON, which was a Capacitybuilders project and had created a network of some 50 social enterprise advisors across the region. SEASON also helped them to become better skilled and a programme of seminars was held over the winter.

CSE continue to work with Co-operatives<sup>UK</sup> including ensuring co-operatives were represented in the recent elections, working around the party manifestoes

JW thanked the Board members who had worked 420 voluntary hours on running CSE. She also thanked Chris Funnell for the support and work he had done on the CSE Board for many years. Chris stood down this year and she was sorry to see him go.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Jan Laney from Co-operatives Group. Jan held CSE together for many years and was always an absolute joy to work with and she would be sorely missed. JW asked OJ to pass on CSE's gratitude to Jan's family.

The Chair expressed thanks to Midcounties Co-operatives and Co-operatives<sup>UK</sup> for their continued financial support and the Annual Report was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

## **5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

JW introduced AS, CSE's Treasurer, who circulated a summary of the 09/10 accounts. He thanked the funders for the £14,000 received in the last year. £7k had been spent which he felt could show that little work had been carried out but he said a lot of the work was done voluntarily and donations such as the venue for last year's AGM helped support the organisation.

£5k of the surplus would be set aside to help members and co-operatives in the region to host an activity during Co-operatives Fortnight and bursaries were awarded to members to hold events during that time. It was hoped to repeat this again at next year's event.

AS reported £21k was held in the bank with £5k in reserves leaving £16k. He said the remaining money would be used to ensure CSE was even busier during the coming year, with specific emphasis on improved communications.

There were no questions so the Treasurer asked for the accounts to be accepted by the meeting. This was proposed by JW and seconded by OJ.

JW said CSE were always open to ideas for activities and she would like to hear from members with their views. She thanked the Treasurer for his work on the accounts.

## **6. NOMINATION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

JW reported that nominations for positions on the Board had been received from the following existing Board members, some of whom were unable to attend.

- Di Bateman
- Ann Hayes
- Owen Jell
- Felix Lozano
- Jean Nunn-Price
- Andrew Syrett
- Jo White.

JW was delighted to report that an additional nomination had been received from Sally Reith of Shared Interest. She asked if any other members wished to join but none came forward.

The meeting approved the existing and new Board Member nominations and they were welcomed by JW who confirmed that there were still additional places available should anyone else wish to join.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Dave Urmston from Oxford PC Solutions suggested hosting a stand at Glastonbury as Co-operatives Fortnight coincided with the festival. OJ said this had happened in the past but it was difficult to negotiate a space for a large commercial organisation as the festival was comparatively free of sponsorship. JW thought it was an interesting point as it would offer a different arena with which to engage.

Linda Bratcher asked what the future of the hub was and if it was possible to gain further help from them. JW's understanding was that the budget had been set for two financial years and it had been discussed that four day's allocation could be received in a twelve month period and it may be possible to re-apply.

JW thanked Andy for his work as treasurer which she had found invaluable.

There was no further business and JW invited everyone to enjoy the buffet and networking. She formally closed the AGM.