



# **JOHN STORER CHARNWOOD AND JOHN STORER HOUSE FOUNDATION**

**Minutes of the Joint Annual General Meeting 2022**

**Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 2pm**

**Hybrid meeting held via Zoom and in person**

**1. Welcome by the Chair of JSC, Sandy Leong, in the absence of the Mayor of Charnwood, Cllr Jennifer Tillotson. The Mayor sent the following statement:**

If you are reading this, it is because I am unable to attend in person. Let me explain, my husband is currently undergoing fortnightly chemotherapy and we never know until Wednesday morning whether the treatment will take place on Wednesday or Thursday afternoon.

I am very sorry that I am unable to attend today and trust you will understand and accept my apologies.

I know how much hard work takes place at John Storer House, much of it carried out by a team of dedicated volunteers. Recent events have presented new challenges, which have been overcome as new ways of working have been embraced; my thanks and congratulations to everyone involved.

Councillor Jennifer Tillotson  
Mayor of Charnwood

Sandy Leong thanked the Mayor and declared the meeting quorate.

**2. Apologies for absence**

There were four apologies for absence: Brahmah Kumaris, Richard Hassall, Keith Pyne, Cllr Margaret Smidowicz (Deputy Mayor)

There were no notifications of AOB and no notifications of proxy votes.

### **3. Minutes of the combined AGM of John Storer Charnwood and John Storer House Foundation held on 11 January 2022**

The minutes had been agreed by the Joint Board of Trustees on 9 March 2022 and were, therefore, recommended for approval.

Proposed by Wendy Smith, seconded by Cllr Jenny Bowker. Agreed.

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Annual Report on Activities and Services 2021 - 2022**

#### **4a John Storer Charnwood – Sandy Leong (Chair)**

Evolving & staying relevant

It is said that all organisations are going somewhere and even with no intervention will continue on a journey, but maybe not the right one. However, like steering a ship on a rough sea, (today's issues) to make sure organisations stay relevant there needs a firm hand on the tiller, pointing it in the right direction. The right direction for JSC is always the same, from its inception in 1966, but the hands on the tiller change (staff & volunteers), the ship (the building) changes and beneficiaries change but the differences we make, the values we promote have never changed.

But to remain relevant in today's post covid world, we have to change the way we meet these values. So again, we have evolved, to stay relevant to the changing needs of the community and individuals in Charnwood. During this period, we have redesigned and developed our services, some in partnership with other organisation, to meet newly identified issues that groups and individuals are experiencing. We have been constantly looking for innovative and creative ways to meet these needs in a timely and appropriate way.

The charity that Mr John Storer's founded over 300 years ago and whose name we bear, gave bread to those in need and a warm coat to children. This can be a metaphor for what we do today, our transport service taking people who aren't able to use public transport to where they need to be, the community shop serving people who are struggling to feed their families, our wellbeing groups meeting to make people's lives better to mention just 3 of our many services.

We never change our values, but we understand the need to evolve to always be relevant in the world we live in today.

In conclusion I would like to give my thanks to the staff, my fellow trustees who are always so willing to share their expertise and give their time to making sure JSC is a success story no matter how difficult that can be at times.

And of course, to the volunteers who make this a special place with the expertise and experience they bring with them.

I would also like to thank our funders LCC and CBC, although we work hard to generate our own income, seeking out funding and fundraising,

the struggle to continue would be much greater as the needs grow year on year.

And my thanks to you for coming today to show your support for the work we do to, serving the people & organisations in Charnwood making lives better in this post Covid world.

Sandy Leong

Chair Joint Board of Trustees, JSC & JSHF

Proposed to receive by Elliot Harris, seconded by Madhu Khandelwal. Agreed.

#### **4b. John Storer House Foundation – Ian Stewart (Chair)**

Another busy year. A lot of work was done to the building during lockdown. This was prioritised via SMT, JRC and JBT. Hireable rooms were re-decorated, the car park was resurfaced and had kerbs and speed bumps fitted. The accessible bathroom was completed.

But there is still plenty to be done – wish list includes a new floor in the café, windows and the completion of the kitchen renovations.

We are still financially strong with an increase in the current net assets of JSHF. Reserves are reviewed regularly.

JSHF is in a good and stable condition despite the pandemic.

Proposed to receive by Sandie Forrest, seconded by Cllr Jenny Bowker. Agreed.

Sandy asked if there were any questions or comments about either report but there were none.

### **5. Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022**

Presentation by John West (Hon Treasurer JSC) of the

- Independently Examined Accounts of John Storer Charnwood (formerly Voluntary Action Charnwood)
- Independently Examined Accounts of John Storer House Foundation
- Treasurers' Report and Consolidated Accounts combining JSC and JSHF

John West, JSC Treasurer, presented the following 2021-22 Financial Documents:

JSC Accounts, JSHF Accounts, Treasurers' Report and Consolidated Accounts together with an Annual Accounts Presentation Summary as follows:

The 21/22 fund values have changed during the financial year as shown in the Finance Documents which have been circulated for John Storer Charnwood and John Storer House Foundation otherwise known as JSC and JSHF.

Restricted Funds increased by £26,741, all in JSC. Designated Funds increased in JSC by £20,830 whilst they reduced in JSHF by £20,040 for depreciation. General Funds increased in JSC by £15,523 and they increased in JSHF by £6,825. The JSC Pension Reserve Liability reduced by £29,676.

The JSC 21/22 Final Accounts explain the effect on the accounts of the Covid-19 Pandemic lockdowns and restrictions and the share investments of JSHF were sold during 21/22.

Richard and I would like to thank everyone involved in the production and funding of the accounts and request your approval today please of the 21/22 Treasurers' Report and Consolidated Accounts and the JSC and JSHF 21/22 Final Accounts which were formally accepted by JBT on Monday, 10th October 2022.

The full accounts are available to view on the JSC AGM website at <https://johnstorercharnwood.org.uk/agm/> or from John Storer House administration.

There were no questions.

JSC accounts: proposed to accept by John West, seconded by Ian Stewart. Agreed.  
JSHF accounts: proposed to accept by John West, seconded by Jenny Bowker. Agreed.

## **6. Appointment of Auditor or Independent Examiner**

The members are requested to approve the appointment of Evolve Accountants and Business Advisors Ltd as Independent Examiner of the accounts of both charities and to authorise the Board of Trustees of John Storer Charnwood to determine their remuneration.

Proposed by John West, seconded by Madhu Khandelwal. Agreed

## **7. Elections to John Storer Charnwood**

### **7a. President and Vice-Presidents**

It is proposed to elect the Mayor of Charnwood, Cllr Jenni Tillotson, to the office of President of John Storer Charnwood.

It is proposed to elect the Deputy Mayor of Charnwood, Cllr Margaret Smidowicz, to the office of Vice-President.

Both proposed by Sandie Forrest, seconded by Andy Hull and agreed.

### **7b. Board of Trustees (membership list enclosed)**

This year no trustees have to stand down.

We have received one nomination to the Board of Trustees:

Martin Mee has been nominated to the JSC Board of Trustees. This, as an uncontested nomination, was accepted. Martin was welcomed to the Board by Sandy and other trustees.

### **7c. Co-options – for information only to AGM**

There is currently one vacancy for a co-opted trustee

Noted.

#### **7d. Shepshed Nominees**

In 2006 an Extraordinary General Meeting was held in which amendments to the Articles of Association were presented. These were passed but were not subsequently registered with the Charity Commission.

The Articles currently registered with the Charity Commission do not suggest how the Board of Trustees should be made up and we feel that this is the best way.

Consequently, we no longer require there to be formal nominees from Shepshed. This is in line with other Shepshed Town Council- funded projects which require quarterly reports, but no representation on any local committees or governing bodies.

As an organisation, however, we are committed to ensuring that the Board of Trustees has representation from the Borough of Charnwood as a whole.

Noted.

#### **7e. Charnwood Borough Council Nominees**

Charnwood Borough Council is invited to nominate two representatives to be trustees of the John Storer House Foundation. As such, they attend the Joint Board of Trustees, but may only vote on JSHF matters. They only have one current nominee, Cllr Jenny Bokor.

Charnwood Borough Council is also invited to nominate two representatives to be observers of John Storer Charnwood. As such, they attend the Joint Board of Trustees, but may not vote on any matters. The current nominees are Cllr Ted Parton and Cllr Geoff Parsons.

#### **8. Memorandum and Articles – bringing the JSC governing document up to date**

The Memorandum and Articles are still relevant and there has been no change to our purpose since 1966. We intend to produce an Operational Handbook that will be a guide for the Trustee Board.

The changes put forward are administrative only – the updating of words and terminology, including the utilising of new communications technology.

Karen added that we have now created a tracked document, with each of the submitted changes clearly added and that the new changes will now be registered with the Charities

Commission. We will be looking at how the board is made up and ensuring that there is representation from Charnwood borough as a whole, in a new operational document.

Changes acknowledged by a show of hands.

## **9. A short report on the year 2021-22**

Karen gave a presentation on the year 2021-22, emphasizing the three areas of development we have seen this year:

- Increase in demand for Well-being services
- Development of Your Store and huge problem of food insecurity
- Enduring importance of partnership working

A copy of this presentation is available on the website [johnstorercharnwood.org.uk](http://johnstorercharnwood.org.uk).

Karen thanked the staff, volunteers for their continued support and contributions.

There was a vote of thanks to Karen for her presentation by Sandy Leong

There was then a second video shown of Karen opening the Changing Places Bathroom, with a tour.

A copy of this presentation is available on the website [johnstorercharnwood.org.uk](http://johnstorercharnwood.org.uk).

There were several comments about both of the above presentations and about the performance and role of John Storer Charnwood:

Elliot Harris: Before I joined the Board last year, I thought I knew what John Storer Charnwood was about, but now I realise I didn't have a clue. I now see what goes on both inside the building and outside and what goes into delivering it. Thanks to the staff team and volunteers.

Tina Robinson (CBC): Been asked to pass on thanks from CBC for everything you do. Whatever has been asked of you, you have stepped up and done it in a huge way. You are a valued strategic partner. Big thank you from us.

Karen: The time we shared during Covid with CBC and with other partners really showed the huge impact on the community made by partnership working. We now hold the principles of collaborative working dear.

### **Your Store**

Cllr Jenny Bowker: The social supermarket is marvellous.

Ann Gimpel (Quakers): Asked whether, as has been in the news, Your Store has been affected by supply problems.

Karen: FareShare has stopped taking on new partners and has admitted it is struggling to fulfil the contracts it already has. We have five deliveries a week and we have been told we cannot increase that in any way. There is a national shortage of food being donated to organisations and charities. Brexit has meant delivery issues and supermarkets are reducing their waste, particularly by taking off sell by dates off vegetables, for example. At the moment we have closed the self-referral route. We are not turning them away, we are just asking them to go through a referral agent. We do have capacity for new members, but

we have to bear in mind that it will be limited. We are trying hard to ensure that customers are complying with the rules – being firm but kind in saying “this is the offer”. All is positive. We have been asked by councils and other organisations as to how we have done it. We have had a request from Devon asking if they can come to visit us.

### **Changing Places Bathroom**

Cllr Bowker asked if we advertised the bathroom.

Karen: Once we are registered on the national Changing Places website, we will send the link to CBC and entertainment venues. The website is well known to those who require these kinds of facilities. People have already found us. It can also be used for those with hidden disabilities – diabetics could use it to carry out injections. It is a good, large, bright space. Can also be used as a sick bay when necessary.

## **10.Any other business**

None.

Sandy gave a vote of thanks to everybody involved in the work and processes of JSC, including staff, volunteers and trustees. She commented that she was always amazed at how much gets done with so few staff, which shows their commitment and dedication. So much more than the sum of our resources.

She then stated that the 2023 AGM would be held face to face.

Sandy then closed the meeting.