JOHN STORER CHARNWOOD
AND
JOHN STORER HOUSE FOUNDATION

Minutes of Joint Annual General Meeting 2024

Monday 7 October 2024 at 2.30pm

Held face-to-face with the option to attend via Zoom

1. **Sandy Leong, as chair of the joint board of trustees, opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, gave apologies for the Mayor, Cllr Dr Julie Bradshaw and thanked the Deputy Mayor, Cllr David Northage, for attending.**

   Welcome address from the Deputy Mayor of Charnwood, Cllr David Northage:

   "I feel both honoured and privileged to be here welcoming you all to this Joint Annual General Meeting of John Storer Charnwood and the John Storer House Foundation.

   The contribution to well-being that John Storer Charnwood brings to so many people within Charnwood cannot be overstated, the benefit it brings to the community is immense.

   We in Shepshed are proud to be part of John Storer Charnwood with the Shepshed Volunteer Centre, an integral part of our town which provides such important and essential services to Shepshed that it is impossible to imagine life without it.

   This is a special moment in the history of the iconic institution that is John Storer House Foundation and John Storer Charnwood.

   An historic occasion which all of us here today feel privileged to witness. Thank you."

   Sandy Leong thanked the Deputy Mayor and declared the meeting quorate.

2. **Apologies for absence**
   There were seven apologies for absence received:
   Ian Stewart, Lisa Parkes (Rowleys Partnership), Brahma Kumaris, Keith Pyne, Karen Jepson, Cllr Sarah Goode, Madhu Khandelwal

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

3. **Minutes of the combined AGM of John Storer Charnwood and John Storer House Foundation held on 30 October 2023**

The minutes had been agreed by the Joint Board of Trustees on 29 November 2023 and were, therefore, recommended for approval.

Proposed by Sandie Forrest, seconded by Wendy Smith. Agreed.

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Report on Activities and Services 2023 – 2024

SL outlined the different formats of the annual report; the formal annual report included in the accounts and available to view on the JSC website and the less formal, more colourful version, available to take away from the meeting or to be posted out on request.

No comments or questions

Vote to adopt the Annual Report:
Proposed by Elliot Harris, seconded by Andy Hull. Agreed.

4a John Storer Charnwood – Sandy Leong (Chair)

"On February 29th, 2024, after years of discussing and trying to merge our two charities it finally happened. This merger will make no difference to the services we provide and what we do. Most people won't notice any difference. But from this AGM we will have one board of trustees and not a joint board, made up of the trustees of John Storer House Foundation and of John Storer Charnwood. We always worked seamlessly together, and had you been a visitor to a board meeting you wouldn't have noticed we were two boards, except for things like accepting the annual accounts which had to be done for both charities and a few more things.

I'll leave anything else to say about JSHF to Richard, who had the role of treasurer on this board.

But I would like to add this process has made us reflect on the original charity, John Storer House Foundation and those who all those years ago had the foresight to set it up and the courage and energy to develop it to become a Charnwood institution, usually referred to fondly as 'John Storer' (if only Mr. John Storer knew what he had started when he left his legacy that eventually spawned the building that has borne his name for so long).

It's timely to look back on all the individuals that have been involved in developing the services and offerings of our two charities from its beginning, most are not with us anymore, but some people will remember them. What they started we have remained faithful to, staff, volunteers and trustees carrying the torch through the decades, always trying to improve what the voluntary and community sector offers and making sure it is relevant to the current needs and hopes of the people of Charnwood.

JSC has had as always, a busy year, services have increased their numbers of users, the numbers of volunteers have grown, getting back to pre-Covid levels. I'm going to leave the details for Karen to tell you in her report.

I would particularly like to thank the trustees that have steered John Storer House Foundation over the years who will now join us as members of the John Storer Charnwood board of trustees, and as always the amazing staff that work so hard and to thank the volunteers that are involved in our work, together making it a vibrant, fun and caring place to be, whether it's in John Storer House, at Shepshed Volunteer Centre, the Therapeutic Garden, the other groups that we run, or travelling in one of our fleet of transport vehicles or any other 'small' corner that is part of John Storer Charnwood.

As always John Storer Charnwood will keep evolving, with the power and skills of the amazing staff and volunteers that are involved, making it a vibrant, fun and caring place to be, whether that's in John Storer House, Shepshed Volunteer Centre, the Therapeutic Garden, the groups that we run, or travelling in one of our fleet of transport vehicles or any other small 'corner' that is part of John Storer Charnwood."

No questions or comments.

4b John Storer House Foundation – Richard Hassall (JSHF Treasurer)

As Ian Stewart, Chair of JSHF was absent, Richard Hassall gave the address about the Foundation.

RH: "JSHF was originally set up to hold John Storer House for use as a centre to help the community around it and it held the property costs, together with some other assets and liabilities.

In 2013 JSC took over all the activities and JSHF granted a lease to it to use the building.

There were reasons why the two charities were kept separate, but after some research in 2023, it was found that the reasons no longer applied, and because all the activities took place at JSC, it was decided to close JSHF and transfer its assets and liabilities to JSC. This was done on 29th February 2024.

After that date JSHF became dormant and will be dissolved soon.

The merger into JSC will save time and costs and now reflects what has been happening in practice for some years."

No questions or comments

5. Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024

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

JW: "Thanks to everyone involved in the production and funding of the independently examined 23/24 Final Accounts which were approved by trustees at the Accounts Approval Meeting on Wednesday 2nd October.

The Treasurers Report & Consolidated Summary of Accounts show the combined financial results of both charities with a net decrease in the total of all funds partly because some income was received in 22/23 but the related expenditure was in 23/24.

The net decrease in the totals of all funds in 23/24 was £83,560 whilst the net increase in the totals of all funds in 22/23 was £202,186.

Please accept the 23/24 Final Accounts, Treasurers' Report and Consolidated Summary of Accounts all of which have been previously circulated to trustees and will be available on the JSC website.

Thank you."

There were no questions.

Sandy thanked the two treasurers for their work in putting together the accounts.

The proposal to accept the JSC and JSHF accounts and the Treasurers' Report was made by John West. Seconded by Simon Watts. Agreed.

6. Appointment of Auditor or Independent Examiner

The members were requested to approve the appointment of The Rowleys Partnership 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 Mel Chaggar. Agreed.

7. Elections to John Storer Charnwood

7a President and Vice-Presidents

It was proposed to elect the Mayor of Charnwood, Cllr Dr Julie Bradshaw, to the office of President of John Storer Charnwood.

Proposed by Sandie Forrest, seconded by Mel Chaggar. Agreed.

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

Proposed by Wendy Smith, seconded by Simon Watts. Agreed.

7b Board of Trustees (membership list enclosed)

This year four trustees, Madhu Khandelwal, John West, Sandy Leong and Elliot Harris were due to stand down and were able to seek re-election. All four had decided to stand again.

SL indicated that as she was one of the trustees standing down, she should pass this item to Karen Frostick, as Company Secretary, to go through.

KF indicated that all four trustees had expressed a wish to stand again and that we had received no further nominations.

There was, therefore, no need for a vote, and all four can be welcomed back onto the board. She then passed the meeting back to Sandy as Chair.

Members of the JSHF Board have also been invited to stand to join the new single board of Trustees.

All four members had indicated that they would like to join the new board. Signed nomination papers, with each former JSHF trustee being nominated by a current JSC board member were presented.
Formal proposal, seconding and vote was carried out – taking all four en bloc.

Ian Stewart, Richard Hassall, Sandie Forrest, Wendy Smith.
Proposed by Elliot Harris, seconded by John West and agreed.

7c Co-options – for information only to AGM

There is currently one vacancy for a co-opted trustee.*
*This was reported at the meeting, but actually there are two vacancies and this minute is the amendment.

7d Charnwood Borough Council Nominees

Charnwood Borough Council is invited to nominate two representatives to be observers of the new single John Storer Charnwood Board. As such, they attend meetings of the board but may not vote on any matters.

There are currently three CBC nominees: Cllr Jenny Bokor, Cllr Sarah Goode and Cllr Colin Hamilton. We will continue to invite all three to board meetings until CBC's new cycle of nominations in June 2025.

Mike Jones asked a question about CBC losing their voting member as the JSHF is no longer functioning. KF reported that CBC have been made aware of the situation and all three current nominees have participated at the board debates and are fully aware of the new arrangements. No issues were raised during the debates and all voted in favour.

8. A short report on the year 2023-24

Including a presentation on the history of John Storer Charnwood Foundation

KF: Important to look at the work already done as well as moving forward. Alongside the merger we have been doing a lot of work on the new business plan which will run from 2025-2028 and will be launched in January 2025.

6 key priorities:

- *To provide facilities at John Storer House, Shepshed Volunteer Centre and the THYME Allotments that meet the needs of individuals and communities.*

  Lot of work in terms of grants to help the building. The building is feeling its age, but has a good future.
  We are particularly proud of the allotments. Last week attended Britain in Bloom awards at Melton Mowbray. We were selected as "Most Inspiring" in the Its Your Neighbourhood awards, out of 140 entrants in the whole East Midlands region.

  MJ: First regional prize ever given in Charnwood.

  KF: New workshop at the allotment is really impressive and will improve facilities.

  MJ: Thank you to JSC for allowing us to use the new building at the allotments to make the presentation to the Britain in Bloom board.

- *To promote volunteering and community action and to strengthen the Charnwood Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS).*

  We have been offering many training courses that are mandatory for organisations, such as first aid, fire safety and safeguarding.

  We are now extending that to volunteer development; introductions to volunteering and to volunteer management. Also offering bespoke support I developing policies etc.

  In the business plan we will be looking to develop the use of volunteers further and also promote volunteering in a wider sense.

- *To identify gaps within the wider borough where community-led support or action is needed and work to establish or develop solutions.*

  Working alongside Tina and the CBC team and Voluntary Action LeicesterShire.

- *To provide a range of activities and services that promote wellbeing, providing opportunities to learn, give, stay active, take notice and connect.*

  Amazingly wellbeing programme that runs five days a week. From singing and dancing to drama productions to therapeutic gardening at the allotments. Work with LCC Framework with professional referrals, but also personal word-of-mouth referrals. High mission, great outcomes and good income.

- *To reduce food poverty and the number of people and families experiencing food insecurity in Charnwood and increase individual and community resilience.*

  Food provision started during Covid. We have recently bought an old, but serviceable van to extend our service. Using in Mountsorrel at the moment. Around 20 regular customers in its one day. Hoping to push that out into other areas of deprivation. Working with ward councillors. First expansion will be in the south of the borough, the villages at the top end of Sileby, East Goscote and into Syston. There foodbanks in place there, but not social supermarkets, which is the next stage along for those not in crisis but struggling.

- *To further reduce our dependence on grant funding through appropriate business strategies and development.*

  Been a strategic partner of CBC for years and very much see it as central to what we do. It includes being available for civic events and also looking at CBC's objectives and seeing how we can contribute to those – help those feeling isolated and lonely, for example.

  We will be better together

- The merger enables us to reduce costs, increase efficiency, make the most of our assets, whilst being able to apply for capital funds that were not previously available to us.

- The two charities have served its communities well for 58 years. We intend to ensure that we remain relevant and able to adapt to the changing needs of future generations.

Tina Robinson (CBC): Would like to say how much we value JSC as a strategic partner.
KF: it is a bit like the contract with have with LCC around wellbeing provision. It is a set of standards to work to. When we do our statement of intent every two years it in invigorates what we should be doing and it does the same when we write the bid for the LCC Framework. It's a quality standard. I would feel very sorry if we didn't have that relationship.

KF: I feel very honoured to be carrying on the work of some of the amazing people who have led the organisation and who have brought it to where we are. None of us could do anything without the history.

No further questions or comments.

Vote of Thanks by Sandy Leong

9. Any other business

None.
Close of meeting 3.25pm.