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# Brighton & Hove Social Welfare and Educational Trust Ltd

Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024  
at St George's Hall, North Moulsecoomb

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## ***There were 21 organisational members of the company present***

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|---|---|
| 1. Alnoure Academy  | 12. On Your Way Job Club & Digital Inclusion      |
| 2. Bates Estate Community Association                           | 13. Robert Lodge Community Space                  |
| 3. Brighton & Hove First Ladies                                 | 14. Salaam FC                                     |
| 4. Bristol Estate Leaseholders and Tenants' Association (BELTA) | 15. Somerset Point Impromptues                    |
| 5. Chattri Memorial Group                                       | 16. Sudanese Community in Sussex                  |
| 6. Coldean Independents   | 17. Sussex Refugee and Migrant Self Support Group |
| 7. Essex Place Residents' Association                           | 18. Sussex Syrian Community                       |
| 8. Hollingdean Artists Collective                               | 19. Sylvan Hall Residents' Association            |
| 9. Hollingdean Residents' Association                           | 20. Woodingdean Residents' Association            |
| 10. North Portslade Residents' Association                      | 21. Woods House Residents' Association            |
| 11. Oromo Community in Brighton & Hove                          |   |

## **Individual members of the Company present**

*Directors:* Aisha El-Turki, Muriel Briault, Christine El-Shabba, Jonathan White, Ahmad Yabroudi, Kaddy Jammeh

*Staff:* Dani Ahrens, Kate Chapman, Kate Page, Mireille Shimoda, Rebecca Luton

*Chair:* Kate Chapman; *Minutes:* Kate Page

## **1. Chair's introduction**

Kate welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She introduced the Resource Centre staff and explained the purpose and format of the meeting.

## **2. Apologies**

### **Apologies were received from 14 organisational members:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) Albion Life                            | 9) Knoll Community Association                          |
| 2) Christian Arabic Club                  | 10) Making our Mark                                     |
| 3) Coldean Residents' Association         | 11) North Whitehawk Tenants' and Residents' Association |
| 4) Craven Vale Community Association      | 12) Sudanese Women & Children                           |
| 5) Euro Mediterranean Resources Network   | 13) Surdi   |
| 6) Hampshire Court Residents' Association | 14) Vale Community Association                          |
| 7) Hangleton and Knoll Hedgehogs          |   |
| 8) Highcroft Lodge Residents' Association |   |

### **Individual apologies were given from**

Linda King, Chris Vine (Essex Place Residents' Association); Joe Macrae (North Portslade Residents' Association); Rob Berry (Coldean Residents' Association)

### 3. Welcome from Chair of Trustees/Directors

Kate Chapman reported that Rob Berry, the current Management Committee Chair, was ill and unable to attend. The meeting sent best wishes to Rob for a speedy recovery and thanked him for all of his work over the year and supporting staff so well.

Kate Page read out this report on behalf of Rob Berry.

He thanked everyone for coming along and supporting the Centre.

He reported that two members of staff left during the year, Megan Archer and Judy Goss. Megan, who started work at the Resource Centre in 2023, resigned in August following a period of sick leave.

Judy left in June for pastures new. She brought her wealth of skills and experience to her work at the Centre for 20 years. The staff group, the Management Committee and all of our users will miss her and thank her for her dedicated work for the Centre.

This has meant that the Centre is short-staffed at the moment, but services are all still running as normal and plans are in place to introduce a new worker early in 2025.

Rob thanked the management committee and all the staff at the Resource Centre. He also thanked all the member groups for the support that they give by using our services.

Without the support of our member groups, we would not exist.

### 4. Minutes of B&H SWET Ltd Company AGM 29th November 2023, and matters arising

The following groups had been left off the attendance list:

- Essex Place Residents' Association
- Sussex Refugee and Migrant Self Support Group
- Sussex Syrian Community

Robert Lodge Residents' Association should be down as Robert Lodge Community Space.

There were no matters arising. With the above amendments, the meeting approved the minutes of last year's AGM. There were no abstentions and no objections.

### 5. Finance and Fundraising Report (Annual Report and Financial Statements year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and financial position)

Mireille gave the following report on the Centre's financial position:

Total income in 2023-24                    **£198,597**

Total spent                                    **£217,436**

So, our expenditure was higher than our income:

Net expenditure was                    **£18,839**

At the end of the year (March 2024) our bank balance was    **£91,237**

Our **income** of **£198,597** came from the following:

Money raised from print & equipment (24%):                    **£47,933**

Grants total (just over 73%):    **£145,700**

Donations & interest:    **£4,775**

**Money raised from print/equipment:**

Our net income from print was 8% higher than the previous year.

Our net income from equipment was 28% higher than the previous year—recovering back to pre-Covid levels. All round, it is really positive to see an upwards trend

**We received grants from the following organisations:**

Brighton & Hove City Council (front desk work)	£89,853
Brighton & Hove Housing Services (work with Residents' Associations)	£36,347
Early Years and Childcare (groups providing childcare, e.g. preschools)	£7,500
East Brighton Trust (groups based in East Brighton)	£2,000
Sussex Community Foundation (support for refugee/migrant/minoritised groups & groups based on estates)	£5,000
Chalk Cliff Trust (work with disabled groups)	£5,000

We're waiting to hear the outcome of our applications to 2 organisations:

Sussex Community Foundation      £10,000

Big Lottery Reaching Communities   £174,000

(for a 5 year partnership project supporting groups with their finances and fundraising)

Mireille noted that, following our financial forecast at the end of the second quarter, we're forecasting slightly less net income from print as compared to last year, but still at a higher level than pre-Covid. Income from equipment hire has gone up since last year and is nearly back to pre-pandemic levels. Our expenditure has been less than expected as staff wages are lower than budgeted because we were unsuccessful in recruiting a new member of staff to replace Judy.

**The future**

Looking to the future, Mireille said the focus is on working very hard to raise extra grant funding as well as to protect the centre's current level of funding.

We're currently working closely with other infrastructure organisations (e.g. Trust for Developing Communities, Community Works, Hangleton & Knoll Project) to secure funding from Brighton and Hove City Council (Thriving Communities Investment Fund) from 2025 for our work.

We are fairly confident that we will secure:

£89,853 for our front desk work

£36,000 for our work with tenants & residents' associations

(But this is always subject to the Council's budget).

She remarked that feedback and support from groups is very helpful when we apply for funding – comments from user groups are used in reports and to bolster funding applications.

Mireille concluded by reminding the meeting that it's always worth mentioning the Resource Centre when talking to Councillors or Council officers - it really helps them to understand what we do and why we are worth funding.

### **Mireille then invited questions from the meeting:**

Lugman asked why we thought there would be a dip in print income this year. He wondered if our print prices were too high – his group had a cheaper quote from elsewhere. Mireille said that we always aim to keep our prices competitive and cheaper than other places. While we can do this for smaller jobs and individual copies, we can't compete with internet businesses or large printing companies for really large print runs. There have been steep increases in paper costs over the year which have also added to costs. It's useful to have feedback on our prices and we do look at this regularly.

Barney asked when the Council budget was set, as he thought it already had been. The council budgets run from April-March, so the budget for 2024-25 has been set, but the 2025-26 budget will not be set until February/March 2025.

Barney noted that as there had been no inflation increase on our Council grants the Centre has in effect had a decrease in its funding revenue.

**The meeting approved the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. There were no objections or abstentions.**

## **6. New Members**

Four new membership applications had been approved by the management committee at meetings during the past year.

1. Fibro Flys (disability group)
2. LGBTQ+ Neurodiversity meet-up
3. Arco-Iris Association (Spanish bi-lingual community group)
4. Moulsecoomb Social Club

All four groups meet the criteria for membership.

Cat said that Hollingdean Artists Collective had applied for membership and been told this had been put forward. They run drop-in arts sessions for people in Hollingdean.

Kate Chapman proposed that this group was put forward for membership at this meeting.

Davinder asked about who was eligible for membership. Kate explained that membership was aimed at grassroots, small local groups, run by the people involved in them, in the following categories: areas of social housing, groups organising around disabilities and black and minority ethnic groups. Any group can use the Centre without being a member, but members get some price reductions and additional support from us with, for example, fundraising, accounts, printing and design work. Members are also invited to the AGM and elect the Management Committee.

**The meeting voted unanimously to approve Hollingdean Artists Collective as a member.**

## **7. Election of Trustees/Directors for 2023/24**

Kate asked this year's nominees who were present to introduce themselves and say a few words about their group and how they have worked with the Resource Centre:

1. **Awel Harun Abdo**  
(Oromo Community in Brighton & Hove, existing member of the committee)
2. **Robin Berry**  
(Coldean Residents' Association, chair of committee for 2023-24)

3. **Muriel Briault**  
(North Portslade Residents' Association, existing member of committee)
4. **Kaddy Jammeh**  
(Brighton and Hove First Ladies, existing member of committee)
5. **Chris El Shabba**  
(Robert Lodge Community Space, existing member of committee)
6. **Emma Salcombe**  
(Essex Place Residents' Association, new nomination)
7. **Aisha El-Turki**  
(Alnoure Academy, existing member of committee)
8. **Jonathan White**  
(On Your Way, existing member of committee)
9. **Ahmad Yabroudi**  
(Sussex Syrian Community, existing member of the committee)

Sue asked about the role of the Management Committee, as this can vary in different organisations. Kate Chapman explained that the Resource Centre Management Committee, who are also the charity trustees, had an oversight role, with the day-to-day work delegated to the staff. The committee meets three times a year (plus the AGM) to receive reports and budgets and ensure the proper running of the Centre. They also give feedback on Resource Centre services and make sure it remains useful and relevant to the grassroots groups it is there to support.

The voting system was explained and ballot papers distributed and collected for counting.

## 8. Work Report

Dani gave a report on the year's work at the Centre. This is available to read on our website: <https://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/about-us/resource-centre-agm-2024/#report>.

## 9. Election results

All nine nominees were elected as trustees and directors to sit on the Resource Centre Management Committee for 2024-25

Kate congratulated the new committee, and thanked candidates for standing.

## 10. Close of meeting

Kate thanked everyone for their support and contributions to the meeting and invited everyone to stay for the buffet.

**These minutes were approved by the Annual General Meeting of Brighton and Hove Social Welfare and Educational Trust Ltd on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)**

***Signed***

***on behalf of the Management Committee***