



Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Patching Lodge, Saturday 11th February 2012

Members present

Chris Dutton (chair), Colin Bennett, Connie French, Dorothy Duboisson, Dot Whatman, Iris Keppler, Jacqui Campbell, Jim Lee, Keith Turner, Paul Gillett (minutes), Ruby Woolven, Shirley West, Sue Vivian

Volunteers present

Andrea Nonce, Jonathan Dutton, Ray Woolven, Rosie Collins, Steve Evans, Sue Joseph, Valerie Mainstone

Also present

Christine Tester, Valerie Lee

1. **Apologies for absence** – None received.
2. **Minutes of last meeting** dated 12th February 2011 were read and agreed.
3. **Matters Arising**
Colin updated the meeting regarding the campaign on "A" Boards, he said the position in Brighton & Hove remains disappointing but the struggle goes on.
4. **Chair's Report**
Chris expressed gratitude to Volunteers and committee for all their hard work over the last year.

5. **Treasurers Report**

Jonathan presented the report showing that we were carrying forward £2,300 to the coming year. Our financial position was helped by a grant for £1,500 from the co-operative community fund. He informed the meeting that there were sufficient funds to last through the coming year but the committee was already looking at applying for new funds.

6. **City Synergy 10th Anniversary**

Paul presented a report outlining some of the history and achievement since City Synergy began in 2002.

7. **Policies**

Jonathan read a paper on the roles and responsibilities of committee members and officers, it was noted that this was largely a re-statement of existing arrangements but had been felt worthwhile to put down in a simple summary.

8. **Election of Officers**

Valerie Mainstone took the chair for this part of the meeting. The meeting was reminded that only members could nominate and vote. The following people were elected unopposed.

Role	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Chris	Paul	Keith
Treasurer	Iris	Chris	Sue Vivian
Secretary	Paul	Sue Vivian	Ruby
Other committee members	Ruby	Paul	Dot
	Jim		
	Jacqui		

Shirley informed the meeting that she would be standing down from the committee and Chris thanked her for her contribution.

9. Issues affecting people with sight loss

9.1 Brighton VIPs

Christine Tester told the meeting about a new support group set up for people with sight loss. It was emphasised that City Synergy and Brighton VIPs were not in competition and it was hoped that both would benefit from each others existence.

Monthly meetings are being held at Blatchington Court Trust and Paul can provide more detail to those interested.

Paul expressed gratitude to Christine for the generous support she had given to City Synergy over the years.

9.2 Low Vision Clinic

Paul advised the meeting that the local low vision service at Montague House was now being run by Rehabilitation officers for the Vision Impaired (ROVI). The service provides help with mobility training and low vision aids.

Both Jim and Paul had recently used the service and were pleased with the assistance given.

In answer to a question about those outside the Brighton & Hove area, Paul recommended contacting ESAB or 4Sight initially.

9.3 RNIB talking books

Paul informed the meeting that there had been a campaign in response to the local council proposal to withdraw funding from the RNIB talking book service in Brighton & Hove. Diane Marks and Diane Fazackerley had attended a meeting at which a commitment was given to fund the service for a further year and to review future options with the RNIB.

He thanked everyone who had contacted the council or signed the petition, the issue may not be fully resolved but there is reason for cautious optimism.

10 **Activities**

Looking back it was noted that many of the activities in the past year had been suggested at the previous AGM. Connie expressed appreciation for the wonderful varied programme.

Looking ahead, Jonathan presented a list of possible future activities and invited members and volunteers to vote on those they were interested in. The results are included below as an appendix to the minutes

11. Any other business – None.
12. Proposed date of next meeting – Saturday 9th February 2013.

APPENDIX

Voting for activities

	Members	Volunteers
Wildlife Centre, Arundel	11	7
Arundel Castle and gardens	10	7
Lewes Castle	10	6
Brighton Marina Walk of Fame	9	7
Amberley Chalk Pits	9	6
Brooklands Park (incl cycles)	9	6
Coulteshaw Beam Pump	8	7
Woods Mill Wildlife Sanctuary	8	7
Lilac Collection Withdean (Spring) with picnic	8	7
Birdman at Worthing - 18th & 19th August 2012	7	7
Murder Mystery	5	7
Quiz Night	5	4
Olympic Flame Festival – Creative workshops (May-June)	5	4
Talent evening/Comedy evening	4	4
Music Evening	3	6
City Synergy Olympics	3	4
Treasure Hunt	3	4
Gardening course for people with sight loss	2	4
Martlets Hospice	2	4
Blind Cricket M2	2	