

Minutes of West Northumberland Food Bank AGM held on March 24th 2021 at 6pm on Zoom

Present: Trustees, Staff, and nine members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** Trevor Cessford, John Rookes, Wendy Best, Tony Douglas, Rev Mike Stade, John Dunn, Roger Hancock, Denise, Kathy Reeds, Emma Richardson, Judith Graham, Mary Oswell, Colin Pyle, Tony Buglass, Ellen Walton.
2. **Minutes of the previous AGM:** approved.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were none
4. **Chair's Report:** This was presented by Chair Jonathan Hill who was co-opted as Chair in September 2020. (David Ratcliff was interim Chair following the resignation of Tony Willis). He pointed out that both he and Leslie Ferguson were both co-opted Trustees standing for election tonight. Jonathan briefly introduced Trustees and Staff giving a brief description of their individual roles within the Organisation. This was followed by a reminder of the key objective of WNFB:

“The objects of the CIO are the prevention or relief of poverty in West Northumberland in particular but not exclusively, by providing emergency food supplies and related provisions to individuals in need, and to charities or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.”

This was followed by sincere thanks offered to founding Trustee, Bev Kempson, who has served as Treasurer for the past 7 years as well as undertaking HR and line management duties. Bev was presented with a card and flowers.

5. **Project Manager's Report:** This was presented by Sam. She spoke of the early days of Covid when so much was unknown. The Units had to be closed to all visitors and home deliveries began using the TSWs to run the helpline. There was good feedback from service users, pleased to have someone to talk to who really listened and cared. During the year to end of September 2021 there were 1516 deliveries covering 6,000 miles of road and track. Outstanding was the amount of public generosity: money seemed to pour in which indicated to Trustees and Staff the extent of the public's trust in the Food bank. What next? Sam announced that there would be a survey of 200 households to ask what their main needs were and what more we could do. The survey would be ready to go out in the next week or so and would include print copies and telephone surveys. Jonathan thanked Sam for her report. He also thanked David Ratcliff for the Chair's report in the Annual Report.

6. **Accounts:** Accounts for the year October 2019 – end of September 2020 were presented by Bev.
Income Received: £156k
Surplus: £94k
Cash at Year End: £121k of which £70k held as Reserve
Mandy Senior was thanked for being our External Examiner for these Annual Accounts.
Bev noted that with such a healthy balance to our accounts, we were not currently writing grant funding applications although local organisations Lions and Rotary are still supporting us financially.
7. **Election of Trustees:** Since one third of Trustees resign each year but can stand for re-election, David resigned but was re-elected. Bev Kempson resigned and didn't stand for election.
Jonathan who had been co-opted during the year was elected unanimously with a show of hands. Likewise Lesley Ferguson to act as Hon. Treasurer.
All were thanked.
8. **Questions from the Floor:** there were none.

Jonathan ended the AGM by expressing thanks to all who had attended the Zoom with special thanks to Staff, TSWs and drivers. He expressed the hope that the next AGM would be a normal in-person one.