

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of New Mills Festival

28th November 2023 at the Rock Mill Centre, New Mills

Attendees:

Helen Wright (Chair), Alison Vasey (minutes) Sara-Jayne Slocombe, Katie Pearson, Jo Allan, Cath (Youth Matters) Jamie Bartleet, Hannah Kitson (NMVC), Ade Castronova, Richard Body, Hazel Body, Lyn Bannister, Russell Hindley, Nikki Duguid, Patty Doran

Apologies:

Alex Bond, Sarah Wines, Annie Hallam, Melody Slinn, Brenda, Shirley

1. Introductions and matters arising

ACTION: HW to share the Consultancy report mentioned in last year's AGM minutes and to upload to NMF website

Discussion about volunteers – advice from Cath that to encourage volunteers there needs to be clear benefit offered in return, could be in the form of experience for CV, additional training, for example.

2. Festival Co-ordinator's report (HW) appendix i

3. Director's Report (PD) appendix ii

4. Finance Report (S-JS) appendix iii

5. Election of Committee Members not required as the festival is now organised as a Community Interest Company. If anyone is interested in being a Director, they should express their interest via email or in person to one of the existing Directors. Current Directors are: Lyn Bannister, Patty Doran, Toby Hardwick, Alex Bond, Alison Vasey.

6. Discussion

There was a general consensus that the festival goes back to basics and focuses on a community programme with whatever additions volunteers are able to add.

Roles that will be needed/ tasks that will need to be done for 2024:

Marketing – print and digital

Programme (brochure)

Festival Events through the year or as part of the festival – these can support fundraising but not all have to

Volunteer co-ordinating

Grant Funding applications

Art Trail- if there is a team to organise it

Duck Race support

A core team of people to support the Festival Co-ordinator will be key to help keep to a timeline and plan- the group can help with reaching out to the wider community for support with specific tasks

Hannah at NMVC has offered to help with our approach to volunteers and volunteering
ACTION: HW to meet Hannah and discuss.

Discussion about the need to provide more for younger audiences.

Youth Matters have youth volunteers and representatives within the organisation. Cath at Youth Matters explained that they invest in Bright HR which helps them ensure they support volunteers well and are able to offer some kind of development opportunity for volunteers.

Cath expressed an interest in collaborating with the festival to organise an outdoor community event for families and young people, possibly small-scale lantern making, BBQ, 'FamFest'. Youth Matters has a committee meeting in January.

Could ask NM Football Club about involvement

Jo and Clare Allan are interested in developing an Art Trail – they will discuss

ACTION: AV to speak to Alison Foote re: funding towards an Art Trail

****All agreed festival dates of 13th-29th September 2024****

ACTIONS HW: - recruit new Festival Co-ordinator

- Get the festival dates out before Christmas
- organise January meeting to build a new organising team

On fundraising:

We have previously received funding from Foundation Derbyshire and it is possible for the festival to apply again for up to £2000. This could help with cost of the brochure, as before.

Awards for All is worth looking at through HLF, for community events

High Peak Borough Council offers community grants

Suggestion that the festival could have someone focusing on funding applications
Profitability and sustaining a paid role is the key focus for funding so that limits who we can apply to but we can help that by applying to other organisations to support other elements of the festival. HW has been in touch with Joanne Blunt at HPBC to discuss an application to the Arts Council and will continue to work on that with her support.

Cath at Youth Matters offered support with a search for funding sources as did Hannah at NMVC as well as CVS support. HW has also been offered this via Sylvia Green at High Peak CVS

ACTION HW to pursue funding application for printed programme/brochure

