

Ludlow 21

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
for financial year ending 31st March 2023
held at Ludlow Brewery on 19th October 2023, 7.00pm**

Present:

Chris Deaves
Richard Ellis
Sue Campbell
Liz Taylor
Ian Urry
Faith Claringbull
Charlotte Reeve
Philip Adams
Sylvia Adams
Nick Robertson
Kerry Robinson
Megan Blackmore
Susie Green
Tish Dockerty
John Daniels
Roz Cox
Linda Downey
Trice Astill
Clare Currant
David Currant
Sarah Burke
Simon Burke
Keith Claringbull
Roger Furniss
Sylvia Duffy
Daniel Seal
Scarlett Penn
Matthew Seabrook
Jane Lumley
Denise Thompson
Robin Pote

Apologies:

Marianne Wakeling
Kevin Oubridge
Kim Holroyd
Noel Lambert
Jane Cullen
Di Lyle

1. Introduction and Apologies

Tish Dockerty welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this was the AGM for the financial year 2022 / 23, but that updates on activities later in 2023 would also be given. Tish explained that Ludlow 21 is a limited company and as such has a board of directors and a treasurer and secretary. The Board and secretary introduced themselves. The apologies listed above were noted.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th October 2021

Denise Thompson proposed that these be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Liz Taylor seconded. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for year ending 31.03.23

Copies of the accounts had previously been made available. John Daniels gave a brief summary and reported that financially it had been a very good year. Ludlow 21 has continued to support the bus timetable co-ordinated by Roger Furniss, by funding the project at £50 a year and providing banking services for other funds.

There were no questions. Robin Pote proposed that the meeting accept the accounts. David Carrant seconded. The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

4. Chair's and Group Reports

Chair's Report:

Tish Dockerty thanked everyone for coming. It is good to see new faces. This is about Ludlow and our community. Ludlow 21 is primarily an environmental group, with many incredibly active sub-groups all trying to achieve things by activities and lobbying. New members are always welcome. Tish explained the 'family' and 'friends' group structure – family being sub-groups directly affiliated to Ludlow 21, and friends being independent groups with which we maintain close links. Ludlow 21 is the sum of its parts with the energy in the groups, and is also a networking organisation keen to provide space for other local environmental groups.

Tish has been chair for 7 years. She explained she has limited capacity but is able to keep things going because others get involved. Tish thanked the chairs of the family groups and Clare Carrant, membership secretary, for their input.

We currently have 71 paid-up members. The organisation has been going for 25 years and it would be nice to increase membership numbers. Membership fees were increased this year for the first time ever, to £15 individual membership and £20 household. However we also try to be an inclusive organisation and have a mailing list which is much wider than the membership and all are welcome at events.

Scarlett Penn questioned whether membership could be a barrier and does it have to be there? Also can we become part of the Transition movement and access funds that way?

Megan Blackmore reported that we have signed up as a Transition group and are investigating available training. Tish explained that membership fees cover running costs e.g. insurance, accountants fees, etc and that grants from Transition network and other sources are unlikely to cover running costs. Membership is voluntary, it shows support for Ludlow 21 but is not compulsory for participation.

Tish emphasised that grants are available from Ludlow 21 to seed new groups and projects, and encouraged people to get in touch if they have ideas they would like to pursue.

Group reports:

Group reports had been previously circulated for the 'family' groups, namely: Repair Cafe; Fair Trade; Incredible Edible; Sustainable Transport.

Brief verbal summaries of these were given by Chris Deaves (Energy), Incredible Edible (Megan Blackmore) and Robin Pote (Sustainable Transport). Additional reports were

given verbally by Liz Taylor and Sylvia Duffy (Fair Trade) and Ian Urry (Green Festival) as follows:

Fair Trade: Fair trade fortnight has been moved from spring to September. The group will be visiting schools, and focusing on Climate Change and Climate Justice. A stall is being run at the Local to Ludlow Produce Market on 23rd November, selling crafts, chocolate, coffee etc.

Green Festival: Ian had spoken to people on the day and asked for feedback afterwards. The attendance and atmosphere were very good. There was a buzz and sense of interested engagement, with people lingering to look at stalls and activities. The music was well organised thanks to Nick Robertson and team. The talks between bands were well received. The stalls went well, thanks to Di Lyle for taking over the bookings. The children's activities were well received, thanks to those involved. Ian would like to see more street theatre and the return of electric bikes

Financially the event nearly broke even, with a small deficit.

The aim is to start planning earlier for 2024 in order to increase the involvement of children and young people. The first planning meeting will focus on this.

In summary the event was a good collaboration between people who have been involved for a long time and some new faces. There is always room for more so please join in the planning for next year. The date has been set for 14th July 2024.

5. Election of Directors

There were no new nominations for election to the Board. Tish explained that new Directors are always welcome – if you would like to get involved please speak to any existing Board member.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.05 pm

The formal AGM was followed by short presentations from several local organisations, which were very interesting and well received.