



Minutes of 2017 AGM

Monday 27th November 2017 4.45pm-5.30pm

Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell St, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3LN

Item
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>An introduction and welcome to the AGM was given by Stephen Hill, the current chair of UKCN.</p>
<p>2. List of attendees, proxies and apologies. Clarification on voting.</p> <p>A list of the attendees, proxies and voting eligibility is attached below.</p>
<p>3. Confirmation of minutes of the previous AGM (25th October 2016)</p> <p>Members approved the minutes of the last AGM. NB the location of minutes and reports on the My UKCN Wiki pages.</p>
<p>4. Presentation of financial accounts: Year end 31st March 2016 and 31st March 2017</p> <p>Proposal to adopt accounts accepted.</p>
<p>5. Overview of the current issues for UKCN</p> <p>Stephen Hill gave an overview of the current issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3rd attempt at becoming a registered charity. On the advice of the Charity Commission, the UK Cohousing Trust will now be pursued as an 'Education and Research Charity'.• Financial uncertainty – currently running on relatively low membership fee income but potentially the CHF will help provide some stability.• Stephen gave his thanks to the board for being agile and resilient to change.• The Board will look again at its constitution including quorate and voting rights. A paper is being prepared on this that will be put to members as a special resolution.• The Network wants to encourage cohousing in more 'normal' places such as tower blocks and in more densely populated areas.• The Board and Trustees will need to re-frame the relationship between the Trust and the Network to see what is practical going forward.
<p>6. Confirmation of retiring Directors and request for nominations to board vacancies</p> <p>Resignations from the board of directors have been received from Helen Jarvis and Tim Woodward. The co-opted directors Laura Moss and Caroline McFarland will be standing down.</p> <p>Neil Stephens is due to retire in May 2018, when new elections to the Board of Directors will be held. Neil Stephens has offered to continue as Treasurer until a replacement can be found to undertake this role.</p> <p>Members were asked to consider putting forward nominations to stand as directors for election in May.</p>
<p>7. 2016-17 Annual Report highlights</p>

Anna Kear, Director of UKCN, highlighted the key points from the annual report:

- The rising profile of cohousing in publicity at the local and national level including 8 national awards for OWCH.
- Policy successes including being invited to give evidence to the CLG Select Committee in December 2017 and participating in the APPG on older persons housing at specific invitation of Lord Best.
- New cohousing to be completed in the next year – Cannock Mill, Cambridge and Shirle Hill.
- The successful work of the collaboration with NCLTN to create the framework for how the CHF should look including the need to invest in infrastructure for groups and for groups to be in control of the process.
- The need to remain UK focussed for cohousing despite the England focus of the CHF. Reasoning for developing the England-focussed CHF being that it was an opportunity for growth not to be missed.
- The new web platform works to connect groups together to learn best practise etc. but its use is to be more widely encouraged by groups to share best practice.
- Still working toward being a registered charity which will hopefully be complete by the end of the year.

8. Questions and ideas for future events

No questions were raised at this time.

9. Any other business

Thanks to existing and retiring board members and paid and unpaid staff.

Questions raised from the previous AGM to compare against current success, including:

- Do Local Authorities now have a greater understanding of UK Cohousing?
- Do we have more pre-development financing?
- Are we speaking to Opposition party and Shadow Housing Minister to ensure support in the case of a change of government?

Anna Kear responded that the CHF will provide pre-development funding, and that Catherine Harrington, NCLTN Director, was due to meet with the Shadow Housing Minister the following week to which UK Cohousing had contributed to the briefing note and questions. Phil McGeever emphasises the importance of continuing to raise key question with local MPs so that the cohousing message gets through.

Question raised about the future stability of Anna Kear's position in relation to her salary. The suggestion of a crowdfunder for her wage was suggested.

- Question raised of how much the target would be for?
- Anna suggested it could be an 'any amount' donation
- Suggestion there could be wider support beyond membership for a crowdfunder for this.
- Suggestion that the CHF could help fund this salary.
- Phil McGeever makes the additional point that the Network should look closely at how best to use Anna's time. He suggests in pushing the National agenda whilst other board member's help with day-to-day running of the Network

Stephen Hill suggests that the CHF may be able to create more local hubs to support groups directly whilst the Network refocuses to more centralised issues.

Jackie Carpenter suggests the board members make themselves known.

- Board members introduce themselves.

Stephen Hill wraps up the meeting by making a few key points:

- National Community-Led Housing Conference was due to the successful collaboration between Anna Kear of UKCN and Catherine Harrington of NCLTN
- Would like to nurture the small ecosystems that exist for groups at the local level

UKCN AGM 2017 Attendees

Group Members (19)			
First Name	Surname	Group	
Maria	Brenton	OWCH	
Jackie	Carpenter	Trelay	
Jan	Chadwick	Cambridge K1	
Chris	Coates	Lancaster	
Miguel	Fernandez	Ambos	
Pam	Flynn	MUCH	
Chris	Pyke	Five Rivers	
Kate	Housden	On the Brink	
Stephen	Hill	Dartmouth Pak	
Phil	McGeavor	Cannock Mill	
Fiona	Mullins	Animate	
James	Newton	Yorspace	
Bill	Phelps	Chapeltown	
Peter	Clarke	South Downs Eco Cooperative	
Oliver	Chamberlain	Shirle Hill	
Jan	Waite	Cohousing Hafan Las	
Fran	Ryan	Oxford Cohousing	
Angela	Vincent	Kent Cohousing	
Helen	Jarvis	CoHut	Proxy given to PMG

Friend Members (9)	
First Name	Surname
Neil	Stephens
Dan	Dunleavy
Susie	Meade
Debra	Huzzard
Gillian	Kirk
Roy	Huzzard
David	Pulford
Anne	Dorber
Martin	Field