

Minutes of Routes to Roots Annual General Meeting
Held 9th July 2015 at Skinner Street United Reformed Church, Poole

1. Attendance**Present:**

Pat Southgate	George Taylor
Gabi Sanger-Stevens	Peter Newman
Susan Gittins	Margaret Blyth
Kate Mellor	Helen Ellis
Dean Whale	Maureen McCabe
Lynn Foster	Michael McCabe
Neil Robertson	Nigel Benning
Liz Bailey	Jean Edwards
Natalie Saunders	Richard Edwards
Beryl Bariana	Eric Damerell

Apologies:

Caroline Foy
Janette McCallum
Barbara Nash
Annette Palmer
Joan Percy
Llia Sanger-Stevens
Curt Southgate
Marcus Steward-Keeling (Germann Keeling Ltd)
Sarah Templeton
Ann Tyson
Cllr Janet Walton

2. Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Revd Pat Southgate, Chair of R2R, welcomed all those present and thanked them for coming to this AGM, the first of R2R as a CIO. Pat introduced everyone on the Board and said that it was with sadness she had to report that Sarah Percy had resigned from the Board and as Treasurer. She was a valued member of the Board and will be missed. Pat then introduced Dean Whale as the new Treasurer of R2R. She opened the meeting with a reading from Jeremiah 29:11 followed by prayers.

3. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 12th June 2014 which had been available to view on the website were reviewed and then agreed as a true copy by the meeting and signed by the Chair.

4. Trustees' Annual Report

Pat Southgate went through the Annual Report of the CIO, which has been published online. She emphasised that the Christian ethos is still the same as previously and that the work continues as before. Thanks were expressed to all who make R2R successful – trustees, employees, volunteers, Churches, organisations, businesses and Skinner Street. They are invaluable to our work.

5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts 2014/15

Dean summarised the accounts as published and pointed out that income is down due to the Borough of Poole Contract coming to an end and that grants were slightly reduced. A pension trust has been put in place for employees. He reported that £70,000 is necessary to keep R2R in existence, and many grant bids are being sought to achieve at least that amount. Fundraising is a very important part of R2R and also membership, and he stated that new members are very welcome.

Dean proposed that the meeting adopted the accounts. Gabi-Sanger-Stevens seconded the proposal and the accounts were unanimously adopted.

6. Finalisation of R2R, Charity No. 1093689

Pat reported that all records, documents and financial accounts have now been passed over to the new CIO. The Charity Commission will be informed that the old charity is closed and all new monies will be received into the new accounts.

7. Management Services Report

Gabi reported that the past year had been very challenging, mainly because of the change of service for rough sleepers who were finding it very difficult to access services and new provisions. It has transpired that many of the clients had found it hard to connect with CRI, because they offer reduced times when services are available, and therefore Gabi and Neil had been signposting rough sleepers and helping them with basic necessities.

Neil reported that he would be leaving at the end of July to take up training to be ordained. He stated that he had been privileged to work with R2R. He mentioned that R2R engagement with clients was very helpful and friendly, that R2R do "food and clothes" very well, but more training is needed to upskill volunteers in dealing with the clients and giving care plans etc. Recent training has been given regarding addictions. The projects which had been started had not received a good take-up and this has been shelved for the immediate future. However "Our Voice" has been successful in giving the clients one-to-one time to debate issues. Neil was pleased to report that a meeting with Healthwatch Dorset and the Clinical Commissioning Group director has been set up to discuss the difficulties clients have in accessing health and dental care. It is hoped that we shall be able to engage emergency dental care regularly from a mobile unit for the clients. We are also working with the Poole Addictions Community Team to look at setting up a harm minimisation outreach clinic at Routes to Roots during Monday drop-ins and we have made contact with Citizens Advice Bureau to offer an outreach service through the office. Housing is still the biggest issue as availability in Poole is very restricted. All the work we are and intend to do with our clients needs to be recorded and this in turn will provide very useful information for grant funding.

Gabi was pleased to report that Green Pastures in Stockport are helping R2R to buy our first property and contracts will soon be exchanged. Three clients will be accommodated and will be supported with volunteers to help them adapt to their new situation. More help will be needed and much prayer; details will be supplied to members and volunteers as soon as possible.

The meeting applauded Gabi and Neil for their work.

8. Re-elect Trustee Kate Mellor

In accordance with CIO procedure, one trustee has to step down from the Board. Kate Mellor agreed to step down. Pat proposed that the meeting re-elect Kate; Gabi seconded the motion and the meeting showed they were all in favour. Therefore Kate Mellor has been re-elected to the Board, with Pat Southgate, Susan Gittins and Gabi Sanger-Stevens.

Gabi stated that the next AGM will probably be 13th October 2016, confirmation to follow.

9. Any Other Business

Pat mentioned that Caroline Foy's husband Tim had recently passed away and then followed a time of prayer for Caroline and the family. The meeting then closed in the saying of the grace.