

Lee Green Lives (LGL)

Minutes of the AGM held on in Thursday 11 April 2024 Lee Green Community Centre

Present: Charles Batchelor, Elaine Curley, Adeyinka Joseph (LB Lewisham), Shirley Kirkland (Coordinator), Patricia Mahony, Jim Mallory (Secretary), Linda Mallory, Caroline Mayow, Frances Migniuolo, Clementsia Pacquet, James Rathbone (Treasurer), Maureen Russell, DeShaun Smith
Apologies: Grace Blyth, Pat Coyne (Chair), Joanne Harvey, Simon Hooks, Jean Lee, Paul Lowndes, Wendy Moss, Hugh Ridsdill-Smith

1. Welcome by Jim Mallory and Presentation of the Annual Report

JM took the chair in the absence of Pat Coyne, who was unwell. As it was the last year in which we would meet in the Community Centre as LGL would be leaving by 30 September because of the redevelopment of Leegate, it was a time for sadness but also reflection on what had been achieved since 2010 despite many challenges. JM listed many people – past and present – who had contributed to LGL's success and survival:

Julia Gemie, Barbara Stockbridge, Claire Russell, Stephanie Bennett-Fraser, Jean Lee, Joanne Harvey, Clementsia Pacquet, DeShaun Smith, Alex Peach, Lorraine Spenceley, Valerie Miller, Patricia Mahony, Adeyinka Joseph, Simon Hooks, Frances Migniuolo and, of course, Pat Coyne, James Rathbone, and a special mention for Caroline Mayow and Shirley Kirkland*

Members cited Ralph White, who died in 2023 and Sheila Peck, who had died in 2022, both of whom had contributed much as trustees to the organisation.

*Since the meeting, acknowledgments should also have been made to Helen Nicholas and Roz Hardie for their contributions.

2. Minutes of last year's AGM (1 March 2023)

Already circulated, these were agreed. There were no matters rising.

3. Treasurer's Report by James Rathbone – Financial Accounts 2023-24 (unaudited)

JR introduced his report, the main issues being that, faced with local authority cuts resulting in LGL's Main (Partnership) Grant being cut in 2025 and vacating Leegate, the issues facing the organisation were severe. The real deficit for 2023-24 year's end was £14,382. Reserves were sufficient for us to meet our obligations, including redundancy. A lack of core (unrestricted) funds in particular meant we faced the possibility of having to close down, should we fail to raise significant funds this year and next year. He estimated we would need £10,000 in core funds for 2024-25. Meanwhile, JR said that he would organise the necessary processes for closing down, should we decide to pursue that option.

4. Leegate and future options update, by Jim Mallory

The loss of the Partnership Grant in 2025 made an already perilous financial situation more serious. A Relocation Grant of £5,000 resulting from Galliard and LB Lewisham negotiations (for which we lobbied) would help marginally.

Meanwhile, we were in constructive talks with St Peter's Church to relocate to the church hall in nearby Weigall Road, should LGL raise sufficient funds to cover the next two years. Longer-term, there was a prospect of the Lee Centre being restored to community use following the Council's rejection of an application to change its designated community use (although the applicants representing owners SLAM had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate). A potential regeneration proposal for the centre might then be put together by V22 Charitable Incorporated Organisation, but the prospect of that being achieved would be several years away. LGL had expressed an interest in being part of that, should it take place.

Simon Hooks would investigate the feasibility of retaining LGL's legal status by becoming dormant, which would require us to clear all our financial obligations and hold limited or no funds.

The immediate priority of raising funds would be taken up by a group consisting of Philippe Granger (founder of Lewisham Local), Simon Higgs of V22 (Manor House Library) and JM. It was agreed that Frances Migniuolo (Lee Fair Share) join this group. It would report back on progress in June. Options therefore are: a) Close down LGL and proceed to wind down; b) Meanwhile, investigate how and complexity of retaining LGL's legal identity; c) Defer a decision until June, at which point trustees would review LGL's financial position before agreeing which course of action to take.

It was agreed to adopt (c).

5. Consideration on whether to suspend Part II Section H Article 10 of the constitution

to allow an officer to serve for more than three consecutive years.

This was agreed

6. Election of officers

- a) Chair – Pat Coyne was nominated by Patricia Mahony, seconded by Maureen Russell
Elected unopposed
- b) Vice Chair – Jim Mallory was nominated by Caroline Mayow, seconded by Elaine Curley
Elected unopposed
- c) Treasurer – James Rathbone was nominated by Caroline Mayow, seconded by Linda Mallory
Elected unopposed
- d) Secretary – Maureen Russell was nominated by Elaine Curley, seconded by Frances Migniuolo
Elected unopposed

7. Election of trustees

Existing trustees Pat Coyne, Elaine Curley, Simon Hooks, Jim Mallory, Caroline Mayow, Frances Migniuolo, Wendy Moss, James Rathbone and Maureen Russell were all re-elected. Pat Mahony was elected as a new trustee.

8. Any other business (AOB)

There was none

9. Date of the next Trustees meeting

It was agreed to consult on a date, which would be held towards the end of June