

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DEVIZES OPENDOORS
held on 26th February 2025
at the Southbroom Centre

1. Welcome

Noel Woolrych who was chairing the AGM welcomed all those attending.

2. Attendance & apologies

Attendees:

Trustees - Rachael Ross, Noel Woolrych, Richard Oliver, Jonathan Hunter, Alison Radevsky, Anthony Foster.

Staff - Angie Carpenter.

Volunteers/Members - Jillian Fennell, Sue Johns, Pat Taylor, Pete Taylor, Lawrie Smithson, Rachel Bull.

Apologies received from:

Trustees: Iain Wallis, Alix Thomas.

Volunteers/Members: Dora Kahn, David and Sue Buxton.

3. Minutes of previous AGM

Acceptance of the minutes of the AGM held on 28th February 2024 was proposed by Noel Woolrych, seconded by Richard Oliver and approved by all attending. The Chair Rachael Ross signed them as a true and fair record. They are available to view on the DOD website.

4. Annual Report for November 1st 2022 – October 31st 2023

Chair Rachael Ross made the following points to supplement her Annual Report, in reviewing the year:

- The rich diversity of our very active volunteers and all they bring to the charity
- There are three main groups for volunteers to get involved with: Operations, chaired by Pat Taylor, Fundraising chaired by Alison Radevsky and Training chaired by John Saunders – volunteers to contact the Chairs if they would like to take part.
- Fundraising - the recent application to Lloyds having not been successful has reinforced the need to concentrate fund raising activity on other sources. It was great to host the Urchfont scarecrow festival team and to hear the village has invited DOD to take part in the May event to showcase our work.
- Our work with guests led by Nadia Mitchell and Angie Carpenter. They are our front of house contact with guests and who, with volunteers, deliver the core work of the charity.
- The work with guests can be life changing, e.g. preventing an eviction or working step by step with a guest from rough sleeping to a safe home.
- Sometimes our work is challenging and when challenging behaviour crosses a line we take this seriously as we want to make sure that the centre is a safe space where guests, staff and volunteers can work safely.

- The diversity of the trustees who together bring to the management of the charity a valuable range of skills, and a warm welcome made to our newest Trustee Alison.
- A priority theme for us going forward include accessing and developing mental health and wellbeing training and support for guests, staff and volunteers.
- The website is currently being updated to improve its appearance and functionality.
- Finally a tribute to guests who have died during the year, John Mann and Stephen Holland. This is always particularly hard for everyone.
- DOD have recently received commendation from Wiltshire Council's Adult Social Care on the particular support given to vulnerable guests under difficult circumstances.
- Thanks are due to members for their financial and moral support of DOD's work and a request was made to members to encourage others to join the regular giving to the charity. More information on how to do this is available from Richard Oliver, Treasurer.

Adoption of the annual report was proposed by Jonathan Hunter and seconded by Lawrie Smithson. For details see the full annual report and accounts on the website.

5. Annual accounts for November 1st 2023 – October 31st 2024

Adoption proposed by Jonathan Hunter and seconded by Rachael Ross. None against. For details see website.

6. JS Weeks reappointed as independent financial examiners for 2024/5. Proposed by Lawrie Smithson, seconded by Angie Carpenter.

7. Election of trustees

Rachael Ross, Richard Oliver and Iain Wallis stood down and were re-appointed. All three were proposed by Noel Woolrych and seconded by Alison Radevsky. Alison Radevsky was ratified as a new trustee following her co-option, proposed by Noel Woolrych and seconded by Jonathan Hunter.

The AGM meeting closed at approx. 7.30pm.

8. Suggestions and observations made after the meeting

- Additional thanks offered to volunteers and trustees by Noel Woolrych: *"Nothing would happen without them. We care about our fellow human beings"*.
- Angie Carpenter mentioned a young fundraiser who has thrown herself into raising funds for DOD by selling teddy bears, running tombolas etc. She will be taking part in a half marathon in April 2025.
- A Just Giving page for her sponsorship will be circulated to DOD members by Noel Woolrych. **Action: NW**
- A question was raised about how rough sleepers can be supported in extremely cold weather. If a SWEP (3 days of below zero temperatures) is declared by WC, an offer of accommodation is made and appears on the DOD website too. Rough sleepers are aware of this and so can take advantage of it if they wish.
- As from this year, DOD can also authorize single nights' accommodation at the Travelodge in emergency situations. DOD trustees Noel Woolrych, Richard Oliver and Rachael Ross can approve this expenditure.
- A leaflet on DOD services is available for people to hand out to homeless people if they wish to.