



**Annual General Meeting
Friday 25th November 2022
New York Stadium
3.00pm – 4.00 pm
Face to Face Meeting**

Present:

See attached list

Voting – There were 16 Proxy votes received.

Apologies:

There were 24 apologies received.

1. Welcome and Introduction – Sarah Whittle
(Voluntary Action Rotherham Chair)

Sarah welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was so nice to see people face to face. The Network event, prior to the AGM has also been a success where we have chatted to reps from partners agencies, VCS members, VAR staff, partners, VC groups and few new members for the first time.

Two questions were asked to be completed during the Networking event (1) What do you value most about the VAR services / support and 2) What could we do more of, differently? The responses submitted will aid in the strategic planning for the future.

Notifications and information have been sent to members prior to the AGM.

Members were also asked to vote by proxy with members agreeing that Sarah would act as proxy. Chair advised that the meeting was quorate.

2. **Chief Executive Report – Shafiq Hussain** CEO Voluntary Action Rotherham

Shafiq began by welcoming representatives to the meeting. He went on to thank members for their proxy nominations and proxy votes.

Shafiq has been in this role as CEO for nearly 3 years but it is his first AGM in person, face / to face. He has been at VAR for over 20 years. VAR work alongside members and stakeholders to positively impact the people in Rotherham to have a voice and influence change in the area.

VAR's focus is being able to provide support to help setup and support community groups. The CEO gave an overview of the services that have been engaging with VCS groups throughout this year and shared highlights such as the National Community Renewal fund & Anything's Possible Rotherham which secured £660k which saw over 16 organisations working together.

Due to the cost of living crisis, there are more people in need of support and VAR have been able to assist organisations, delivering a programme of activity and supporting vulnerable people in need.

Last Christmas we assisted with the Rotherham food appeal and coordinated to raise funds and foods. There was also the Rotherham Toy appeal, run by families first who supplied gift for over 2,100 families in Rotherham.

One of the partnership values is collaboration; instead of competition, the VCS has a huge role to play in being involved with the new South Yorkshire, NHS Integrated Care Board. They do not have to have a Voluntary Community Sector voice but have chosen to include us moving forward.

The CEO shared that it has been a pleasure to have the knowledge and expertise of the trustees that are standing down today and personally thanked Geoff, Jean, David and Carole who are stepping down today.

Shafiq handed the meeting back to the Chair, Sarah Whittle to conduct the official AGM section.

3. **VAR AGM**

The VAR AGM has been held in November and reports back on the last financial year, April 2022 to March this reporting year.

Apologies

There were 24 apologies received.
16 proxy votes

Minutes of AGM 19/11/2021

The minutes of the meeting 19th November 2021 were accepted as a true record of the meeting – ***Proposed by Carole Haywood and seconded by Tony Blacker***

Members voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Election to Board of Trustees

In line with VAR's Mem & Art's, a number of Trustees have to stand down each year at the AGM. Trustees may only serve 3 continuous terms as trustees, with each term a maximum of 3 years. This year Carol Haywood, David Selman, Geoff Link and Jean Flanagan are stepping down as a VAR Trustees. David, Geoff and Jean have served for 3 continuous terms (i.e. 9 Years each) so will not be able to be re-elected.

Sarah Whittle, our Chair and Angham Ahmed are stepping down but are standing for re-election.

Geoff was first elected in 2013 as an independent advisor and has also been VAR's Chair of the Spectrum Futures committee and VAR are incredibly grateful for the expertise and contributions that Geoff has made throughout his time.

Jean has taken on the roles of VAR Vice chair on the Spectrum Futures board and VAR Vice Chair from 2019 to 2021. Jean is also a VAR / VCS representative on Rotherham hospital (TRFT) as partner Governor role. The Chair thanked Jean for all her support and huge commitment.

David Selman has been a trustee for 9 years and with Ann, his wife, a Community Ambassador on the team at VAR. David represents St Paul's Church. The Chair sent her good wishes to David who couldn't attend today.

Carole Haywood has been a trustee since 2018 and also VAR Vice Chair for the Board. Carol has been an advisor for local authority for many years and the Chair thanked Carol for her energy, time and expertise.

Irshad Akbar also had to step down due to ill health and brought financial expertise to the Board as well as the Finance Committee. The Chair thanked Irshad also.

Trustee Re-elections

Sarah Whittle is standing for re-election as a Trustee.

**Proposed by Jeanette Mallinder and seconded by Judy Dalton
Members voted unanimously on the re-election of Sarah Whittle**

There were no Abstentions or Against.

Angham Ahmed is standing for re-election as a Trustee.

**Proposed by Stuart Walls and seconded by Zanib Rasool
Members voted unanimously on the re-election of the Chair.**

There were no Abstentions or Against.

New Trustee Elections

There are some new trustees standing for election today:

John Barber (Individual member)

**Proposed by Stuart Walls and seconded by Terry Adair
Members voted unanimously on the election of John Barber.**

There were no Abstentions or Against

Christine Batchford (VCS member)

**Proposed by Janet Stocks and seconded by Pip Harder
Members voted unanimously on the election of Christine Batchford.**

There were no Abstentions or Against.

Judy Dalton (VCS member)

**Proposed by Jeanette Mallinder and seconded by Mary Jacques
Members voted unanimously on the election of Judy Dalton**

There were no Abstentions or Against.

Raja Khan (VCS member)

**Proposed by Pip Harder and seconded by Judy Dalton
Members voted unanimously on the election of Raja Khan**

There were no Abstentions or Against.

Elaine Senior (Individual member)

**Proposed by Judy Dalton and seconded by Stuart Walls
Members voted unanimously on the election of Elaine Senior**

There were no Abstentions or Against.

Robert Savage (Individual member)

**Proposed by Stuart Walls and seconded by Terry Adair
Members voted unanimously on the election of Robert Savage**

There were no Abstentions or Against.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Board of Trustees.

Presentation of VAR Accounts 2021-2022

The Treasurer, Stuart Walls gave an overview of the financial statement to the meeting. The accounts are independently audited this year by Barbara & Platt and were found to be accurate and comprehensive and passed this year's reviews and independent audit report. Stuart referred attendees to the information packs and highlighted the annual turnover, income, expenditure and balance sheet information.

Stuart thanked the finance team for an accurate and timely report of the accounts.
There were no questions

The vote is to receive and adopt the VAR Annual Accounts and Trustees Report
April 2021 – March 2022.

**Proposed by Sarah Whittle and seconded by Jeanette Mallinder
Members voted unanimously to accept and adopt the accounts**

There were no Abstentions or Against.

Adoption of Auditors

The Auditors for VAR for the last 14 years have been Barbara Harrison and Platt.

Discussions at the VAR Finance Committee and Executive Group felt it was an appropriate time to seek to re-tender for the VAR independent Auditors work.

Following a comprehensive tender process, VAR Treasurer was recommending that we appoint new Auditors, Hentons.

VAR propose to use Hentons as the Auditors with a yearly review.

**Proposed by Jeanette Mallinder and seconded by Angham Ahmed
Members voted unanimously to accept Hentons as Auditors.**

There were no Abstentions or Against.

4. **Thank you**

The formal part of the AGM has now concluded. Sarah thanked members for their attendance. She went on to thank VAR's funding partners, staff and volunteers.

The meeting was closed.