



Minutes of VODA's Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 11th November 2024 10:00- 12:00 at the Spirit of North Tyneside Hub

Attendees: A full list of attendees is available on request

Apologies: Richard Hart (Trustee) Ruth Conorton (trustee) Lynne Canessa (Trustee)

1. Welcome

Vicky Smith VODA's Chief Executive Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting, completed housekeeping and gave an event rundown.

Vicky Introduced Jackie Loughton the Chief Executive of North Tyneside Council

Keynote speaker- Jackie Laughton the Chief Executive of North Tyneside Council.

Jackie started by saying how much she appreciated being invited to speak as she has always had something to do with championing the VCSE sector and this is one of the first speaking opportunities she has had as chief executive.

Jackie noted what the sector does in the borough is amazing, the Council couldn't do all it does without the sector.

Jackie shared some of her work history that brought her to her recent appointment as Chief executive. She has worked for North Tyneside Council for 18 years and worked way up to Chief executive, she has just been appointed permanently after being deputy and then interim for a while.

All of her time at North Tyneside Council she has worked closely with communities all and with the VCSE sector.

Jackie then shared several memories of working with the VODA and the VCSE sector and the lasting memories and impressions that gave her of the importance of the work the sector does often supporting families with additional things in the spaces they feel comfortable in, the importance of volunteering and projects like Sector Connector that link the sectors together.

Jackie spoke about the pandemic and the collaboration between VODA and the council to swiftly deliver what was needed in the borough and the recognition that received from central government.

She highlighted that she is committed in her current role to recognise that the sector is important and look at what the sector needs, not just money but support.

Jackie then spoke about what is happening now, the new elected mayor, Karen Clark and her new plan for the council, the new plan reflects what people have fed back about what they want to see the council and its partners doing.

She then spoke about the new council plan and how it is going through different stages of approval at the minute. It will be going to cabinet to be signed off this month.



The plan focuses on making north Tyneside even better, it is easy to get depressed about the current financial situation but the plan is focusing on what we do have and what we can do.

There are 5 key themes

Creating places we can be proud of

Giving every young person the best start in life

Good work and economic growth

Housing and neighbourhoods

Better lives for all – particularly linked into the VCSE sector

North Tyneside has some of the most affluent areas in the region and some of the most deprived, there is a stark difference in life opportunities.

The sector knows the communities so they have to work together with the council to make lasting impact.

The plan has been shaped by involving communities and the conversation needs to continue.

They need to be thinking about prevention, thinking about individual needs, not expecting people to fit the prescribed pathways and journeys.

Every penny needs to deliver maximum impact, they have to give value for money, and proportionate support, some areas of the borough need more than others.

Jackie stated that she is committed to strengthening the partnerships with the sector. She does know there are challenges, local government and other funding is a huge challenge for the sector. She understands the pressures with the increased demand for support and the increased hardships, she is focusing on how we can work together for the betterment of the borough. The insight of the sector is invaluable.

Vicky Smith thanked Jackie and introduced Julie Eastlake the Senior Finance Manager

2. Presentation of Accounts

Julie Eastlake presented the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025. A statement of financial activity was in the AGM information packs, and a full copy will be available on the Charity Commission Website.

The turnover very similar to the previous year

Julie briefly explained the statement of accounts she explained the restricted funds are to deliver funded projects and the unrestricted funds are to deliver everything else. The unrestricted funds have broken even.

The restricted funds – it looks like we have spent more than is coming in but it was funds brought forward from last year, the funder paid in advance.



There will be £371,652 carried forward reserves in unrestricted funds in that there is a legal liability fund.

Questions – no questions

3. Appointment of Auditor

Vicky Smith asked for agreement for BK Plus, formerly Reed Milburn to be re-appointed as the auditor of VODA's accounts and noted that consideration has been given to cost and quality of service.

Agreed by - Paul Jones

4. Voda Video

A video showcasing VODA's projects and partners was shown

Vicky thanked Alex Woolley for creating the video

2 minutes silence at 11am observed for Remembrance Day

Vicky Smith introduced Ray Lowry Chair of the Board of Trustees

5. Minutes of the last meeting

Ray introduced himself and the formal part of the meeting

Ray Lowry reminded people that for the following business only people whose organisations or projects who are members of VODA allowed to vote.

Ray Lowry asked for the minutes of the last meeting to be agreed

Proposed by: Andy Burtenshaw

Seconded by: Linda Hoffman

6. Appointment of trustees

Ray introduced Maxine Tennet as a new trustee standing for election and proposed the re-election of two existing trustees Andy Burtenshaw and Richard Hart

Proposed by: Linda Hoffman

Seconded by: Charlotte Humble

7. Rachel Volunteer Journey Presentation

Vicky Smith introduced Rachel Anderson to talk about her volunteering journey.



Rachel Anderson spoke about her journey from voluntary work as a teenager and after COVID to becoming a staff member of Discover me.

She talked about how she had started volunteering with the project, co facilitating, and then designing sessions and then became a paid worker over a year ago. She spoke about how volunteering after the pandemic had greatly benefitted her mental health and how volunteering with Discover Me had helped her to grow and develop.

Rachel applied for Discover Me after 2 years of volunteering and got a paid role.

Rachel thanked Discover Me, Young People, VODA Team.

Vicky Smith thanked Rachel for sharing her story and introduced Keith Hardy for the VODA awards

8. VODA VCSE Awards 2024

Keith Hardy introduced the awards and award winners. He commented on the strong nominations; there were hard decisions for the judges to make.

The VODA VCSE Awards followed Full details of the awards available.

9. Closing Comments

Ray Lowry reminded everyone that VODA has changed to a CIO

Ray thanked the organisers, the volunteers and everyone for attending

Meeting closed at 11:23.