

**Annual General Meeting**  
***Minutes***  
**The Othona Community 277843**  
**Saturday 25th September 2021**  
**11.00 am to 13.30 pm**

**1. Welcome - Chair of Trustees Clare Gough**

**2. Opening worship**

Video presentation of spoken word and musical worship from St Peter's on the Wall at Bradwell.

**3. News from the Centres**

Presented in video form to be hosted subsequently on the websites.

Tim: Everybody contributing to the best of their ability. We have had a difficult year but very hopeful for new beginnings. Tim said he was standing down next Spring 2022.

Debbie and Richard: Listed events this season: April we had picnics outside, May had a good few groups, a good summer with activities like wild worship and music week and a very good festival weekend on the bank holiday.

Reopening was pushed back due to change in national restrictions. Much thanks go to volunteers.

Quite a few people wanted to come only for a weekend ,so the current pattern of offering Monday to Thursday and then Friday to Sunday has advantages. The team have been joined recently by our new EVS. (European volunteers). They introduced themselves on video; 2 from Italy, 1 from Spain and 1 from France (Reunion Island)

Tony:

Introduced the facilities and his wife Robin and they discussed this past year.

Dorset Art Week took place in 2021 with Cream Teas. Very successful.

V, the caterer, introduced herself and her recipes, she has found herself drawn to Chapel time.

Megan, talked about her role as housekeeper. Full time since late June.

Introduction to 'The Glade' as a new outdoor space.

Liz introduced her Craft week and accompanying kite and talked about Miss Adela Curtis who founded a Christian Contemplatives Community in 1930, buying the field on the coast road in 1921. Liz has been doing lots of research during lockdown on the Community of White Ladies at West Dorset.

**4. Financial report - Javed Salim; Partner, Alwyns Accountants**

Javed introduced himself and talked through the accounts.

Financial highlights sheet as sent out in the papers for the AGM.

Retreat receipts experienced a significant drop due to Covid19 Pandemic.

Membership donations increased significantly.  
UK Government financial assistance was significant.

Assets and liabilities:

Assets increased to around £4 million (notional value of property and land)  
Investments went down in value due to capital expenditure, but the markets performed better than expected.

Items to note for future;

Furlough grants coming to an end on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2021

Pressure on prices globally.

Shipping delays globally and some materials in short supply.

Covid19 uncertainty

'Payback' - higher taxes and lower disposable income a possibility.

Angie Smith sent her apologies and Clare thanked her for her hard work and commitment. Michael Hunt is taking over this responsibility as Treasurer subject to members approval.

Membership report: Dave Hodgson Brown

Currently 350 members, up about 30.

Sadly lost 7 people over the year. (RIP) Rev Douglas Bean, Mary Campling, Nora Henschel, Peter Merritt, Doris Stallard, Doreen Summers, John Hardy. Thanks was given for their lives and contributions to The Community.

## **5. Trustees report highlights**

Videos will be hosted on the Websites

Summary of reports in the details sent out.

Trustees thank Tim and Tony and all staff and volunteers at both Centres.

Clare gave many thanks to those members who have donated so generously over the year.

Clare explained the finances. Most of the money is tied up in property and land.

We do need Centres to generate income to cover part of the running costs of the Charity (Accountancy fees, legal advice, hosting the websites mainly).

UK government furlough was essential to keep staff employed during this unprecedented time.

Building projects now completed at both Centres. New Studio at OWD and Kitchen and sustainable energy generation at Bradwell.

Both sites need Septic tank upgrades. Building condition surveys will be completed at both centres.

We are monitoring the changing proposals for Bradwell B Nuclear Power Station.

## **6. Introduction of new Trustees/Directors**

Dan Duffield, Joanna Evans and Sasha East sent Apologies.  
Paul Coleman, Michael Hunt and Mark MacDonald introduced themselves as per written Biographies sent out.

## **7. Election of officers**

Treasurer - Michael Hunt proposed by Caroline Walker elected unanimously

Community Secretary - Geraldine O'Grady proposed by Ruth Bull was elected unanimously

## **8. Questions from Members**

Should Othona be vegetarian by default, in view of the climate emergency?

Both centres are offering more vegetarian menus and options. Sourcing food locally were possible.

What about the new wind turbine at Bradwell. Data will be collected to determine the size needed, planning permission will be obtained, we will go out to tender, grants will be applied for and members and supporters will be asked to donate. Money already donated for the wind turbine is ring fenced and can only be spent on the wind turbine (or returned to donors).

The buildings surveys are needed to determine priorities and both centres need renewal/repairs to the septic tanks. Fund raising will be required for these also.

## **Close of formal AGM 12.30pm with The Grace**

Clare as Chair thanked everyone for their time commitment and attention.

This was followed by a short 10 minute break

## **12.40 pm What Othona has meant to us, video by Jan Marshall and Clare Stone**

A very moving and informative video by Jan Marshall with her daughter Clare Stone. "What Othona has meant to us". Jan told stories and showed photographs of the early days of the Community at both Centres. This will be available with links from both websites.

12.50 pm Open forum for members and friends' conversations (not minuted)

Mark MacDonald Board Secretary and Director/Trustee

*Apologies from: Andrew Watson, Brenda Motley, Alison and Chris Lord,*

*Sasha East, Joanna Evans, Ruth Bull,*