



...Bringing people together  
to meet, listen and talk...

FAN – Friends and Neighbours

The FAN Charity Reg No 1134900: Companies House No 715056

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Directors/Trustees of the FAN Charity

This meeting was held on Zoom 6.15pm Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Present: Ian Thomson (Chair), Peter Akers (Treasurer), Sara Jones (Vice-Chair), Jane Tooby, Huda Khiralseed, Susan Morris, Deepika Bagga (Trustees); Gill Saunders, David Coombs, Zahra Afshari Amin (Members)

Apologies: Jane Booty, Katherine Kanyeihamba, Ruby Baloch, Simon Farrow

Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting. Deepika Bagga has joined the board this year and introduced herself – she works for Cardiff Third Sector Council as a Community Connector. Members Gill Saunders (FAN Founder), David Coombs (with FAN since the beginning) and Zahra Afshari Amin (FAN enthusiast) introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous FAN Charity Annual General Meeting dated 20.9.22 were read and passed as a true record with the corrected date. Proposed Gill Saunders, seconded David Coombs. There were no matters arising.

### Election of Trustees for 2023-24

The following Trustees were elected.

	Trustee	Proposed	Seconded	Carried
1	Ian Thomson	Jane Booty	Jane Tooby	Unanimously
2	Jane Tooby	Huda Khiralseed	Jane Tooby	Unanimously
3	Peter Akers	Jane Tooby	Ian Thomson	Unanimously
4	Huda Khiralseed	Jane Booty	Sara Jones	Unanimously
5	Katherine Kanyeihamba	Ian Thomson	Jane Booty	Unanimously
6	Sara Jones	Susan Morris	Jane Booty	Unanimously
7	Susan Morris	Jane Tooby	Sara Jones	Unanimously
8	Jane Booty	Sara Jones	Huda Khiralseed	Unanimously
9	Deepika Bagga	Ian Thomson	Jane Booty	Unanimously

### Election of official posts.

Ian Thomson was happy to remain as Chair: proposed by Jane Tooby and seconded by Deepika Bagga he was elected unanimously

Sara Jones was happy to remain as Vice-Chair: proposed by Ian Thomson and seconded by Susan Morris. She was elected unanimously

Peter Akers was happy to remain as Treasurer: proposed by Gill Saunders and seconded by Zahra Afshari Amin. He was elected unanimously

## **Presentation of The Annual Report and Accounts of the FAN Charity 2022-23.**

This had been circulated before the meeting. Ian Thomson noted that during this year FAN had returned to our core business – our face to face groups and it was heartening that people were very glad to come back to them. We retain a small number of virtual groups which are also useful meeting the needs of some participants. Hybrid groups did not work – they required more sophisticated equipment to work well.

2022-23 saw our Facilitator training go from strength to strength and we commend Janina and Philippa's work on this; regular Facilitator Get Togethers develop a strong esprit de corps and encourage Facilitators to feel part of the wider FAN network. A new initiative the Ambassador project aimed to cultivate knowledge of FAN amongst the Ambassadors' networks and to bring new people to FAN; this will continue with additional funding, next year.

The NLCF project goes forward strongly in West Wales and Cardiff. We also have one FAN Group meeting in Kenya and expect a further group to develop soon.

As we came to the end of the 2022-23 financial year we were about to celebrate FAN @ 20. We are very pleased that we have reached this milestone despite recent challenges regarding funding and finance – we have been successful in getting project funding but it is much harder to secure core funding – this has been a dominating issue for Trustees and the Core Finance Working Group in particular. In the current financial year we have now secured core and project funding to May 2025 which is a relief. We now focus on what happens after May 2025, when we will need to seek new core and project funding so that FAN can continue with paid staff beyond that date; as responsible Trustees, we will also be working on a strategy that will take FAN forward if we don't get that funding – including continuing to pursue our own fundraising ideas.

Peter Akers noted that at the end of the Financial Year we had used up all grant funding and were poised to start to use our reserves, but since that time we received £1000 from the Gibbs Foundation and £29000 from NLCF Cost of Living fund so that we are now on track until May 2025.

The vote to adopt the 2022-23 Annual Report and Accounts was proposed by Jane Tooby and seconded by David Coombs and was carried unanimously. Signed copies are retained for the Treasurer and the FAN File.

### **Formal thanks and acknowledgements**

Ian noted particular thanks to

- Our External Examiner Wayne Strong
- All Trustees of the FAN Charity for their commitment and contributions to Trustee meetings and Working Groups
- FAN Facilitators and volunteers for their continued care and support
- Gill Saunders FAN Founder and FAN Members represented by Gill, David and Zahra today
- Our wonderful FAN Staff Sally Smith Administrative Support; Janina Kuczys Support and Development Officer, Philippa Wisdom Swansea Development and Support Officer.
- Sarah Duncan-Jones – FAN Manager who carries out the requirements of her job description and much beyond, and who has worked tirelessly on funding applications this year, and continues despite often dispiriting news

### **AOB Correction 7.11.23**

~~Gill noted that all charities are finding this time very challenging and would like FAN Trustees to explore other ways to maintain FAN's work – eg if a larger charity would take FAN under its wing (in the past Oxfam has been very supportive) or if FAN could be supported by local or national government or by business.~~

Gill noted that all charities are finding this time very challenging and would like FAN Trustees to explore other ways to maintain FAN's work - eg if a larger charity would take FAN under its wing (in the past Oxfam has been very supportive). Ian responded by saying that the FAN Working Group of Trustees on Core Funding would consider this possibility alongside other suggested options such as seeking support from local or national government or from business.

Sarah expressed her heartfelt thanks to all Trustees but Ian, Peter and Jane T in particular as she works closely with them and knows how much time and care they put into our charity.

There were no items of any other business and the meeting closed at 18.59.