



Minutes of Routes to Roots Annual General Meeting

25th June 2011

United Reformed Church, Skinner Street, Poole

1. Attendance

Present:			Apologies:	
Liz Bailey	Jennifer Harrison	Gabi Sanger-Stevens	Nigel Benning	Richard McLester
Roger Bailey	Jackie Horton	Curt Southgate	Gill Cook	Kate Mellor
Beryl Bariana	Pat Johnson	Pat Southgate	John Coulson	Arthur Mosely
Margaret Blyth	Alan Knapp	Rosemary St John	Dick Dyke	M Steward-Keeling
Ann Bowler	Helen Knapp	Terence St John	Angela Evans	L Sanger-Stevens
Vera Brown	Steve Little	Cherry Sturt	Stephen Finch	Philip Ward
Jean Edwards	Hazel Marston	Jan Thurgood	Doreen Goldswain	Jane Winter
Rob Fish	Marion Pauley	Raymond Wells	Janet Green	Peter Winter
Caroline Foy	Joan Percy	Howard West	Jim Green	
Susan Gittins	Sarah Percy		Marion Luckman	
Jill Goreham	Paul Richards		Janette McCallum	

2. Opening Prayer

The Revd Pat Southgate, Chair of R2R, opened the meeting with a reading from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians Ch 4 v4, from Jeremiah Ch 29 v11 and with prayer.

3. Welcome

The Chair gave a warm welcome to all those present and thanked them for joining with the celebrations over the last two days. Pat hoped that everyone had had an opportunity to look at the various displays and information points. Pat also mentioned that this was a forerunner for next year when Routes to Roots would be celebrating its 10th Anniversary.

4. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The Minutes of the AGM held on 5th July 2010 were reviewed and the addition made of Liz Bailey as being present. The Minutes were then agreed as a true copy by the meeting and signed by the Secretary.

5. Chair's Report

The Chair's Report was issued with the AGM pack. Pat highlighted the joint outreach working with BCHA which has proved such a success and the hopes of R2R that this will be continued for a third year. Pat thanked Skinner Street URC for their support in this work and all the other aspects of R2R. Pat also made particular mention of those volunteers who had assisted with the Early Morning Outreach, walking alongside the Outreach Workers.

Pat expressed her thanks for all the work the council and housing departments have done in assisting with moving those who have been on the streets into suitable accommodation. This past winter had been particularly difficult with freezing temperatures. Pat highlighted the Breakfast Project with The Fisherman Café which enabled those on the streets to start



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the day with a hot breakfast. Further fund raising would be undertaken in the coming months to do this again should the need arise.

Pat announced that Rob Fish would be leaving Routes to Roots for a new post. Rob has been doing a great job with those who are newly housed, maintaining them in accommodation. Routes to Roots are very grateful for all that Rob has done in the four and a half years that he has been with the charity and we all wish him well in his new venture.

In speaking about the Afternoon Projects, Pat again said how important it was that R2R have their own premises. The task of finding and/or building suitable accommodation will continue. Work will also be ongoing to find additional volunteers for the Befriending Scheme.

Pat said that Routes to Roots has been thrilled with the response to the Open House this weekend. Several people who attended had not known about R2R or of the work that we do. Pat said that this event was something to build on for the future.

Pat then invited questions. A question regarding what is happening about premises was raised. Pat advised R2R have been in discussion with the Planning Department and officers there have provided much useful advice. Premises are still very much on the agenda and R2R have set aside a building fund, currently of £17,560 and we are actively looking for additional funding sources.

A question regarding marketing/promotional activity in the Dolphin Centre was raised. Pat advised that we had done some promotional work there in conjunction with Oposium. Now that so much new material had been created for the Open Days, it would be possible to set up dedicated R2R stands. Pat highlighted that RGL Displays had produced the photographic work for free. Other opportunities for displays and fund raising via Abbey Life, Sainsbury's, the Museum and Libraries would be on the agenda.

6. Treasurer's Report

Sarah referred to her Treasurer's Report which was issued with AGM pack and drew attention to some points.

2010/11 was another successful year with £3,747 more income than expenses. We are very grateful to have received a 16% increase in General donations with significant donations from schools, churches and individuals including

- over £3,000 from the Gateway church
- over £350 from St Joseph's school
- about £700 in memory of E Marston

to mention only a few.

One of the new initiatives this year was providing a cooked breakfast from The Fisherman Café for rough sleepers during the worst of the winter weather, and we are very grateful to those of you who contributed specifically towards that appeal. It proved so popular we carried on the provision until the end of April.

Although R2R did not hold a specific fund-raising activity this year many churches, schools and individuals raised funds on our behalf so successfully our fundraising income is up nearly 400%.

It is disappointing to see the reduction in subscription income. Please remember your membership subscription is due each year, and see if you can encourage more people to join.

Our main costs are related to our three employed staff, including salaries, travel and telephone expenses.

Rent costs have been increased to cover increased gas and electricity charges. Food costs have also increased.



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I would like to put on record my appreciation for all the hard work undertaken by Lynn Foster in maintaining the books for Routes to Roots and wish her the best in her 'retirement'.

Looking towards the future we are in an uncertain position. The POST contract potentially ends this September, though it could be extended for a further year.

I estimate that R2R current activities will cost £65,000 in 2011/12 and without the POST contract and/or other sources of funding we will start eating into our reserves.

However we continue to step out in faith that God is in control of all we do, and will provide the necessary resources, and have allocated £17,560 of our reserves towards finding a permanent home for R2R.

Sarah formally proposed that the meeting adopt the accounts as issued with the AGM pack. This was seconded by Rosemary St John and unanimously agreed.

7. Secretary's Report

Gabi referred to her Secretary's Report which has been issued with the AGM pack and highlighted the following points.

Membership numbers continue to be of concern and we shall be actively chasing up new members in the coming twelve months. Again if you know of someone who might be interested in our work, please do encourage them to become a member. Or if your church or organisation would like us to come and speak to your congregation or members, please do let us know.

There is still no further information from government regarding the CIO status that we shall be seeking. We shall be taking action on this as soon as this does become available. We shall keep you advised when this happens.

Finally my thanks to Caroline for her assistance with preparing the AGM packs and getting everything out on time. And last but not least a thank you to Lynn for all her sterling work in the past.

8. R2R Committee & Trustee Elections

8.1. Election of Honorary members and Trustees:

- 8.1.1. **Chair & Trustee** – Pat Southgate - proposed by Jennifer Harrison, seconded by Dick Dyke
- 8.1.2. **Secretary** – Gabi Sanger-Stevens - proposed by Paul Richards, seconded by Jennifer Harrison
- 8.1.3. **Treasurer & Trustee** – Sarah Percy - proposed by Dick Dyke, seconded by Pat Southgate

8.2. Election of Trustees:

- 8.2.1. Richard Dyke - proposed by Pat Southgate, seconded by Paul Richards
- 8.2.2. Jennifer Harrison - proposed by Gabi Sanger-Stevens, seconded by Pat Southgate
- 8.2.3. Kate Mellor - proposed by Jennifer Harrison, seconded by Sarah Percy
- 8.2.4. Paul Richards – proposed by Sarah Percy, seconded by Pat Southgate

There being no other nominations, all were unanimously elected. There were no dissentions, nor abstentions.



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9. Date of Annual General Meeting 2011

It is proposed that the next AGM should be held in the w/c 11th June 2012 – the actual date will be confirmed in due course and published to the website.

10. Any Other Business

No other business had been notified prior to the meeting and no matters were raised at this time.

11. Close

The meeting joined together in the saying of the grace.

Gabi Sanger-Stevens
(Hon Secretary)