



**Avon Dassett Community Benefit Society  
Minutes of the Remote 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Held on Monday 9 November 2020 at 7pm**

**1) Introduction & apologies**

The Chairman, Darrell Muffitt, welcomed everybody to the meeting and outlined the format. He advised the meeting that we had not received any questions in advance of the meeting but any questions from members would be welcome.

**2) Apologies received**

No apologies had been received

**3) Approval of previous minutes**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 July 2019 were accepted. Proposed: Mike Blakeman  
Seconded: Sally Crompton

**4) Chairman's report**

The Chairman's report had been circulated in advance, but the following points were highlighted:

- a) despite everything that has happened during the year the Yew Tree has remained open despite having two different tenants during the year
- b) thanks were given to Colin and Steve and All Saints Bars for so quickly agreeing to take over the tenancy so quickly and seamlessly and secondly for their tolerance even when they were working under notice to terminate the lease. If the Yew Tree had been their first tenancy things would probably have worked out differently.
- c) the accounts have been circulated and these show that we have:
  - a. been able to repay loans to the extent of £9,000
  - b. to repay some of the personal loans
  - c. acquired some more assets
  - d. managed some repairs and redecoration, (there are more to do as funds become available)
  - e. managed our finances to ensure that we have no tax liability
- d) whilst we have a substantial equity base we do need to continue selling shares in the Society. We have had a number of redemption requests
- e) our activities in respect of being 'more than a pub' continue and are well supported

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- f) the Soap Box derby was a great success, and we entered this event into a Plunkett competition and achieved second place
- g) we managed to co-opt three new members onto the Management Committee
- h) we are looking at what can be done in the future: the outbuildings are untouched since we bought the property, and we are looking at what could be done to make them more usable
- i) Darrell summarised by saying that the pub has remained open, and he thanked the Management Committee and all who have supported the Yew Tree.

A full copy of the Chair's report can be found at:

<https://www.avondassettcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk/app/download/12977251/20200229+ADC+BS+AGM+Chair%27s+Report.pdf>

In response to questions from members, Darrell reported that Amanda Blythe-Smith and Ray Randerson had left the Management Committee during the year.

## 5) Financial Report & Acceptance of Accounts for Financial Year Ended 29 February 2020

There was a small profit, but we had a carry-over loss from last year and corporation tax was paid during the year.

The accounts are unaudited as we self-audit, which keeps our costs down. The accounts have been reviewed by the Management Committee on 16 September 2020. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Mike Blakeman and seconded by Anna Prosser.

The Management Committee has approved a change of accountants to Whitley Stimpson Limited and arrangements are in hand to transfer the business to them. Thanks were recorded to Spencer Gardner Dickens for their support since the Society was formed in 2017.

Copies of the accounts are available at:

<https://www.avondassettcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk/app/download/12621974/20200229+1+-+ACBS+Limited+Signed+Full+Accounts+Final.pdf>

<https://www.avondassettcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk/app/download/11654708/20200229+2+-+ACBS+Limited+Management+Pages+Final.pdf>

<https://www.avondassettcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk/app/download/11654706/20200229+3+-+ACBS+Limited+Signed+Letter+of+Representation+Final.pdf>

## 6) Election of the Management Committee

We have three new members and Sally Crompton has submitted her resignation from the Management Committee. Darrell thanked Sally for all of her hard work and dedication during the time she was a member of the Management Committee.

The Management Committee was re-elected en bloc. Proposed Bryan Masson Seconded Anna Prosser.

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Registered Office: The Reading Room, Avon Dassett, Southam, CV47 2AL

The Management Committee still has two vacancies and if any member wishes to join or knows of anyone who might be interested please contact a member of the Management Committee.

### **7) Any other business**

A member asked, “what does the Society see as the biggest challenges for the next year.” Darrell responded by saying that the best way of responding is to look back at the challenges faced during the last 12 months. The onset of Coronavirus brought significant and unexpected challenges the main one of which was knowing that we had received notice from All Saints Bars, how does the Society keep the Yew Tree open once the restrictions are relaxed? We received relatively short notice that we could reopen 4 July and the Management Committee and all volunteers who helped really made this possible. The second problem was to find a suitable tenant to take the business forward. We had great interest from various applicants, but Jack was the standout candidate, and we were very pleased when he accepted our offer of the tenancy. As to the future, possibly our biggest challenge is to ensure that we keep Jack as our tenant and fully support him as his business moves forward. From a financial perspective, we are behind on our projections mainly due to the pandemic which resulted in us deferring payments, granting rent free periods and our lack of success in our attempts to obtain any grants.

A member said that it feels as if the Society has been in survival mode for the last 12 months and asked if there is a long-term vision for the Society and how do we get there. Darrell responded that this is a very good challenge as to date we have been concentrating on supporting our tenant, being profitable, reducing debt and supporting our ‘more than a pub’ activities rather than thinking longer term. Darrell agreed that the Management Committee would accept this challenge and establish a vision group to agree a long-term vision. If any member wishes to contribute please contact any member of the committee.

A member thanked the Management Committee members and all of the officers for keeping the Yew Tree going during the pandemic and beyond. Also, thanks to all who contributed in any way to the refurbishment and for appointing the excellent tenant who is now in place.

A member reminded members that Jack has had some excellent publicity recently, but we should all spread the word about how welcoming the pub and the excellent offering that is in place.

A member reminded the meeting about the excellent contribution to Alex Jackson and all of the youngsters made during the period when we reopened the Yew Tree prior to Jack taking over.

Darrell thanked Jack for his considerable contribution and for the way that he has revitalised the Yew Tree since he took over.

Darrell also asked members to support the village Christmas card initiative. Profits will go to the Alzheimer’s Society in memory of Thelma Watts.

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