

Registered Charity no.  249726

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 11th March 2020**

**Salvation Army HQ Stowmarket**

**Present**:  There were 50 members present

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Linda** **welcomed** everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting by using the adapted Service of Nones – Wednesday service |  |
| **2.** | **Apologies**: Margaret Goldstone, Margaret Bloomfield, Rachel Jolly, Margaret Lowe, Pam Ross, Doreen Bacon, Allana Baxter, Helen Davy, Tricia Tyler, Margaret Ellis, Margaret Cotton, Brenda Coe, Alison Crockett, Sarah Nicholson, Mary Addington, Lisa Cole, Catherine Forsdike, Rev Canon Ian Wilson, Monica Twaits, Audrey Jamieson, Sue Norrington, Win Sutton, Sandra Belton, Rosemary Savage, Christine Christian, Sue Olver, Mary Stalley, Jean Leach, Helen Davy, and Rosemary Dale |  |
| **3.** | **Minutes of AGM, 10th April 2019**. These were proposed correct by Jeanette Appleton, seconded by Christine Ward, and agreed by all. Signed by Linda Ginn |  |
| **4.** | **Matters Arising –** There were no matters arising |  |
| **5.** | **P President’s Report –** Linda had sent areport prior to the meeting and she read a list of events happening over the next few months, thus she had put a copy to all branches with their Pathways. Linda also told the meeting that a new Trustee was required now Viv has given up her position, and asked if anyone was willing to take on Pathways and Communications for the Diocese. The meeting was asked to go back to their branches and ask members about this request. |  |
| **6.** | **Treasurer’s Report** –Keith explained the annual accounts to the meeting. He had slides so all could see them on the screen. Branches had also received a copy of the accounts by email prior to the meeting. The acceptance of the accounts was proposedby Janice Brett, seconded by Sandra Griffiths, and agreed by those present. Mary Addington has the accounts 2019 and this was approved by the meeting. Keith thanked Mary for her time again this year, and as she doesn’t have a computer the accounts are printed out by Keith for her to approve. Keith also thanked Ann Wright for her help throughout the year.  Linda then thanked Keith for being a good treasurer for yet another year. |  |
| **7.** | **Unit Reports –** These had been sent to branches before the meeting by email, and Linda asked the Trustees if they had anything to add.  Jeanette - mentioned the Award for the branch that enrols the most new members in the following year. This is a one-off award. The winners branch name will be engraved on the award.  Anna - requested that if anyone had items of Bric-a-brac that are suitable for sale at the I-Chameleon shop at the end of the year in Halesworth, she would be grateful for them.  Cathie – Requested the Annual Returns be sent in. The closing date is getting close.  Janice – mentioned that if churches are Fair-Trade churches they will be required to re-register this year.  Jane Harrison told the meeting that the Dean of Hadleigh, had been recruited recently as an MU member.  It was asked if Mothers’ Union is mentioned as part of training when at Theological College? Linda said she was in contact with the next generation of clergy wives who still have close Theological College links, and this could impact on new branches being formed in the future.  Linda asked if there was any update from Christine regarding the Clewer Inititive. Christine had asked Beryl to do copies to go with the Pathways bundles to update braches.  Linda told the meeting the theme for 2020 is “Building Hope and Confidence”.  Linda also asked branches if they had set up tea/coffee sessions for those in their neighbourhood, as she has set up one in Hacheston the first being held on 1st March 2020. Linda told the meeting that if branches wanted to make ‘Bags of love’ the paper ones she first made were not very strong and she had sourced some at Hobbycraft. Linda showed the contents to the meeting and said she had given one to a neighbour, who was very pleased to receive it.  Linda then thanked Viv Buckle (in her absence) for all the work she has done for Mothers’ Union.  Linda also said to remember those no longer with us and that she had attended the Thanksgiving Service for Maureen Springle from St Mary at Stoke branch (who died on Christmas Eve), and Ann Fairweather who had died recently and whose funeral service she had attended on behalf of MU.  Sue Kistruck had mentioned before the meeting she was in contact with a member of Hope and Aid Direct. This is a charity set up to help Woman in the Migrant Camps on the Greek Islands to keep their dignity of having their own Knickers, that no-one else has worn before them. This is really necessary at certain times of the month, as some sanitary wear have wings that stick to the knickers. Sue was so impressed she started to collect packets of knickers and the organizer was able to take 1000 pairs to the group in November. Sue said the organizer would like to take at least 1500 pairs on her next visit later in the year. She said that the organizer is happy to give talks to groups. Her details are Jan Bettley 07901 711394 or [jan@janhancock.co.uk](about:blank). If you want more information I am certain that Sue would be happy to give it to you, her email is [sue@kistruck.co.uk](about:blank). If we all send one pair that would help her achieve this. |  |
| **8.** | **Talk by Sarah Friswell - PR Visits and Volunteer Manager at St Edmundsbury Cathedral**  Sarah showed some slides of different parts of the cathedral that often go unnoticed by visitors if not pointed out.  Sarah told the meeting about the plans the Cathedral has regarding the 1000 year celebration of the building of the first Abbey on that site.  Music is important to the Cathedral and they are holding several concerts this year as music will be one of the great parts of this year.  All events are on the Cathedral website for members of the public to find out what is going on.  Sarah told us that one of the things that are happening this summer is there will be a plinth in the Abbey Gardens (similar to those in Trafalgar Square) and it will have different items on this throughout the summer months up to November.  There are also two Pilgrimages this summer finishing at the Cathedral. These are open to anyone that wishes to join in (details on website).  Also, there is a flower exhibition 16th – 19th July where there will be 10 displays.  On 16th November, there will be a light display in the Abbey Gardens and there will be an Open Day on St Edmund’s Day, 22nd November, 2020.  Events in Bury St Edmunds are on the Cathedral Website and the Bury St Edmund’s website. |  |
| **9.** | Jeanette did mid-day prayers |  |
| **10.** | **Secretary’s Report –** Beryl told the meeting she has tried to keep all branches up to date but that some branch details may have changed and she hasn’t been given the new contact details.  Another item was that the Holiday in Belfast is cancelled due to lack of numbers. This is disappointing but it became unviable. Once it is known where next year’s meeting is being held Beryl will start work on arranging a holiday in that area.  There are still spaces on the coach to Coventry for the ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ service in Covwntry. Names to Beryl - cost £16 per head.  Next Council Meeting is due to be held on 15th June, at Rougham Sports Hall, at 9.30am.  Mary Sumner Day – We hope to join the Cathedral choir for evensong at 3.30pm. Beryl is searching for bell ringers amongst the membership as we have been offered the opportunity of ringing the bells for Evensong. Please contact her if you, or someone you know, is a bell ringer.  16th October is our Healing and Praise Service at Kirton Church at 11.00am  21st November - Council Meeting at Fressingfield at 9.30am for 10.00am  Any other events will be notified nearer the date. |  |
| **11.** | Jeanette gave the closing prayers |  |
| **12.** | Linda closed the meeting with thanks to those who attended. |  |
| **13.** | **Date of Next Meeting - 15th June, 2020, at Rougham Sports Hall - 9.30am for 10.00am.** |  |

Meeting closed at 12.15

Signed:………………………………………………………………Date ………………………………………….…