

**Draft Minutes of Skerries Community Association Annual General Meeting,
8pm Thursday 13th June 2024
Little Theatre, Skerries Community Centre**

Attendance: Minister of State Joe O'Brien TD, Former Cllr Karen Power, BoD: Jane Landy (Chair), Aoife Malone (Secretary), Mary Conway, Michael McKenna, Shay Fanning, Brendan Sherlock, Ger O'Mahony, Helen Scullion, Brendan Friel, Brid Grimes, John Coleman, Eithne O'Connell, Paul Walsh, Breda Shankey (BMS)
There was an attendance of 34 people in total.

Apologies: Louise O'Reilly TD, Cllr Tom O'Leary, Cllr Grainne Maguire, Maeve McGann and Stephanie Hynes (Tidy Towns)

Agenda:

To transact the Ordinary Business of the Company, ie:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31st December 2023
3. To elect Directors to the Board of Skerries Community Association CLG
4. To elect Members to Skerries Community Centre Board of Management
5. To reappoint Dempsey Mullen as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
6. To transact any other business proper to an Annual General Meeting of the Company.

JL opened the AGM by welcoming all present and passing on apologies as above. After health and safety notices re location of exit doors, and toilets, and a request to silence all mobile phones, JL explained how the SCA consists of nine groups, the Board of Directors and eight committees.

1. The Minutes of the last AGM, on 15th June 2023, were confirmed.
Proposed by HS
Seconded by BS
2. The Directors' Report and Financial statement for the year ending 31st Dec 2023 were available at the AGM, and on the website, and were summarised by JL. The deficit of €62,974 was highlighted and also the fact that the Company remains in a healthy financial state, with Net Assets of €219,041. The repayment to Revenue of an overpayment of Covid support had contributed to this deficit.

JL expressed the BoD's thanks to the Community Centre Board of Management, and to its manager, Sharon Guinane, for their excellent work.

There were no queries raised, and the Directors' Report and Financial Statement were accepted.

Proposed by Sabine McKenna (Sustainable Skerries)

Seconded by SF.

3. Election of Directors to SCA. The following Directors were proposed for re-election to the BoD: Brendan Sherlock, Shay Fanning, Brid Grimes, Helen Scullion and Breda Shankey

Proposed by EO'C

Seconded by Bob Laird

Paul Walsh had recently been co-opted and his election was formally approved.

Proposed by MMcK

Seconded by GO'M

JL pointed out that there remains a vacancy for a Director of Communication.

There were no other nominations.

4. Election of members of the Skerries Community Centre Board of Management. The BoM has 10 members, 5 of whom are appointed by the SCA and 5 elected at the SCA AGM. At each AGM, 2 from each 5 are rotated.

SCA AGM elected members of BoM going for re-election are Michael Mulryan and Clare Fox. Both are going forward for re-appointment.

SCA appointed members of the BoM whose term was up and are going forward for re-appointment are Sheila Fogarty and Sharon Lynch.

Proposed by PW

Seconded by BF

5. To reappoint Dempsey Mullen as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration. This was accepted.

Proposed SF

Seconded MC

6. Short reports from Committees:

Community Centre (Shay Fanning): The BoM have continued improvements to the Centre, with a new roof, windows and doors, upgraded reception area, the installation of solar panels and a heat pump and the replacement of leaking water tanks. The All Weather Pitch upgrade is complete and replacement of the surface 'carpet' of the Tennis Courts will take place in late August. The Aerobics studio can now be converted into a Sensory Room in 5 - 10 minutes and is being used by children with additional needs who attend the Montessori group and by members of SAFT who have a monthly sponsored session in the Centre. SF

expressed the Community Centre's thanks to Grace Gallagher and Rebecca Ward of SAFT who guided them with their Autism friendly upgrades. The new Modular Building is in use and there are plans afoot to assess necessary upgrades to the Old School, its roof, insulation, heating system etc. SF expressed his BoM's thanks to the staff of the Community Centre, 4 of whom are permanent, 6 are in the Montessori school and 10 -12 on CE schemes.

Skerries Tidy Towns (Emer McLoughlin): Emer's report was as per their summary in the Annual Flyer. She expressed thanks to all volunteers who come out on work parties and to the Mens' Shed for their help in the upkeep of street furniture.

Sustainable Skerries (Sabine McKenna): Sabine pointed out that their strength is the co-operation between Sustainable Skerries and the other SCA groups and with other local groups. In addition to their update in the Flyer, she reminded all present of the upcoming Bee Festival on 20th + 21st July, their Pollinator Action Plan and their nomination into the Pride of Place competition, Climate Action and Biodiversity, judging of which will take place here on 2nd September. The Eco Festival will take place on 27 - 29 September.

She finished by encouraging people to join Sustainable Skerries and reminded all of the ripple effect of Sustainability.

Skerries Age Friendly Town (Brendan Sherlock): Brendan spoke of a recent talk by Danielle Monaghan about age friendly homes. An Age Friendly town is good for people of all ages.

Mary Conway gave an update on the Community Car. They have decided to concentrate on local trips on Mondays and Fridays. Trips may be to doctors, dentists, shops etc and can also be for social reasons. They wish to encourage local people to avail of this service. Anyone interested should contact a member of the Age Friendly Town group and they will guide them in their registration with Flexibus, the operators. Eric Byrne said that using the car for hospital visits hadn't worked out, so they plan to keep the service local and want more people to use it. We need to use the Community Car or we are in danger of losing it! Contact EB or MC for further information.

Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative/ SSECI (EO'C):

As per their Flyer update, they continue to raise public awareness of the need for better insulated homes and businesses, and the opportunities offered by energy-saving techniques and new, more efficient technologies. They are a very

small group and would welcome prospective new members with a particular interest and/or expertise in sustainable energy.

Skerries Cycling Initiative (Conor Keegan): SCI are not a sports group. Their aim is to promote utility cycling, ie taking the bike instead of the car, and also promote other Active Travel, such as walking. They are supporting the residents of Ballygossan Park in looking for safe crossing points in the Millers Lane area to facilitate safe passage by foot or by bike down to the town centre and schools etc. They have met with FCC and are still awaiting even one Zebra crossing. BMS said that the SCA reps would raise this at the next SCLC meeting in September. SCI is planning a summer bike camp for children and will take part in the Eco Festival in September.

Trishaw (John Coleman): It's a free service for mobility impaired people, available 7 days a week, but must be booked 2 days in advance. The 'pilots' have all received training and are volunteers. JC asked all to spread the word about the Trishaw and raise awareness. Booking is via QR code / app to Cycling without Age Fingal. The trip from the South Strand to Red Island and back to the Rugby club, also includes a free '99' ice cream!

Karen Power also reminded all that there is an accessibility beach buggy also in the Trishaw bunker for use by wheelchair users.

Town Twinning (Brendan Friel): This is the 30th anniversary of the Twinning between Skerries and the Canton of Guichen and 26 French and some Polish visitors (from Srem, which is linked to Guichen) will stay in Skerries from 15th to 19th August. Events are being planned and BF expressed thanks to the people of Skerries for their support over the years.

Skerries Autism Friendly Town (Ger O'Mahony): SAFT is 5 years in existence and its recent activities are in the Flyer. Their purpose is to make the town a more inclusive environment for Autistic children and their families. They have strong relationships with many of the local sporting clubs and the Community Centre. They're looking forward to the completion of the Floraville Sensory Garden which was developed with the support of the Skerries Business Association and LEADER funding.

Skerries Community Liaison Committee (Breda Shankey): Two representatives from the SCA BoD attend the quarterly meetings of the SCLC. As mentioned in the Flyer update, this has been very helpful to our local groups. We have also been representing our local sea swimmers and have achieved some improvements, with more promised.

Jim Quigley Award: BMS announced that the winners of this year's Jim Quigley Volunteer of the Year award were Charlie and Marion Heasman. Their citations listed some of their many achievements for Biodiversity in Skerries, their work in Sustainable Skerries, the Pollinator Corridor, the Open Orchards, the protection of endangered species such as the Large Carder Bee and the Blue Butterfly, the Bee Festival, the Community Garden, their education of children and adults on their always popular Ballast Pit walks, gardening for Biodiversity etc. Their selection was warmly applauded by all present.

BMS also announced a new SCA Board of Directors award which may not be given on an annual basis. This is to acknowledge outstanding work by a volunteer in our community. The Directors have decided to give the inaugural award to Ernestine Woelger, for all her work over the years, as Chair of the Skerries Mills and previously, of the SCA, one of the instigators of the Skerries Poetry Festival and, before that, the Soundwaves Festival, and a founder member of Sustainable Skerries. Citations were also received from the Skerries Poetry Festival committee and the Skerries Mills board. Ernestine wasn't in Skerries for the AGM and an event will be arranged later to mark this.

7. Open Forum: Bob Laird was chair of the SCA for 3 years, approximately 20 years ago. He thanked Mary Conway and Brendan Sherlock for their long service to the SCA. He noted that the old SCA committees are still going strong, and the new ones, such as Sustainable Skerries, are so important and relevant. Bob said the Jim Quigley Award was his idea and he is very happy to see its still working.

Jane Landy wound up the AGM by thanking all attendees, the committee members, the staff of the Community Centre and other volunteers who help us, Sabine McKenna for producing the Flyer, Máire Jones, for the website and accessibility project and Dee Langton for the Newsflash.

