

Agenda Item 9 - Trustees' Response to Resolution

Roger Pask former chair of trustees for Sanctuary In Chichester has put forward a proposal to the upcoming AGM as follows:

Motion to be put to AGM 2022 1(a) A Management Committee be established as from 01 March 2023 separately from the Board of Trustees to manage all operational matters (eg drop-in, adult education, football etc) on behalf of SiC. It is to consist of up to 12 persons – to include all lead trustees responsible for specific major aspects of SiC's work and paid staff if they so wish. (All current Trustees to be invited to become members of the Management Committee.) (Power to create such a committee is already enshrined in our constitution.) (b) The Constitution to be amended to reduce the number of Trustees to between 3 and 7. (c) The Management Committee to be accountable to the Board of Trustees who in turn will be accountable as at present to the Charity Commission for the conduct of the CIO.

2. A small working group be established immediately to agree the details of this arrangement by 31st January 2023 – to consist of the founder of SiC, the current chair of the Board of Trustees and one person with relevant legal experience/knowledge. This group may call upon the services of outside advice or the CIO's paid staff.

The current trustees have considered the proposals in this motion and offer the following response;

The board of trustees confirms that Roger's proposals will be tabled for discussion at the AGM on 31st October 2022. Roger was one of the founders of Sanctuary In Chichester and until January 2022 served as a trustee. He clearly maintains an interest in the charity he helped to form. This motion has therefore been considered with that in mind and trustees are grateful to Roger for his continued interest and involvement.

The trustees have already recognised the need to make significant changes to staff resources and the management structure to reflect the size and complexity of the tasks it now faces.

Trustees also recognise that the charity needs to move away from using independent contractors rather than paid, employed staff and an over-reliance on trustees themselves effectively doubling up as managers.

It was recognised recently that the full board of trustees should not also sit as a management committee and have instead formed a management sub-group from their number together with employed staff who meet regularly and report back to the full board meetings. This is currently working well and all trustees believe this allows very practical and knowledgeable and timely solutions to problems being brought forward, whilst having proper oversight as is the role of a board of trustees. Motion 1(a) has therefore already been implemented.

Trustees **do not** support the proposal to reduce the number of trustees at this particular time of strategic growth and development (Motion 1(b)), nor to form a separate working group to look at how the charity is governed in the near future (Motion 2). The management sub-group is already accountable to the board of trustees.

The current board of trustees comprises eight people, assisted very ably by three members of staff who together bring a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience. Regular advice and assistance can be, and is, accessed when required from West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council, Voluntary Action for Arun and Chichester and the National

Council for Voluntary Organisations.

Lastly, Sanctuary In Chichester prides itself on providing very practical support to its beneficiaries and both trustees and staff pride themselves on providing very practical support to our wonderful volunteers. Thanks to the current trustees and our now increased staff capacity this support has improved significantly and this needs to continue.

The current trustees will therefore vote against this proposal if a vote is called for at the AGM.