

Voluntary Action South Leicestershire  
Annual General Meeting 2025

Venue: Zoom

Date: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Time: 5.30pm

## A G E N D A

1. Election of Chair of Meeting – Julia

Julia Synnott asked for nominations for the Chair for the meeting.

Linda Jones was proposed.

Nomination: **Kate Godber**

Second: **Alan Tolley**

Agreed

2. Opening remarks from the Chair

A very warm welcome to VASL's 2025 AGM. Thank you to everyone for joining us.

It is good to see you and to be able to share with you what VASL has been doing over the last year.

This year's AGM is a little different as we are meeting on Zoom. We are currently in between offices, with lots happening behind the scenes. While we are sorry not to be gathering in person this time, we are looking forward to inviting you, early next year, to our new office launch, where we will celebrate together an exciting new chapter for VASL. More on that later.

Our Annual Report and Accounts for 2024-25 have been completed, approved by the Board, and will be sent out to our members after today's meeting.

The Annual Report shows that VASL has had another excellent year. Our income has been sustained – despite anxieties across the voluntary and community sector about reduced funding available and increased competition for it. Our projects have continued to operate effectively - and been further developed.

A few highlights from our Annual Report and Accounts:

- VASL had continued to thrive throughout 2024/25.
- All of our projects have successfully continued to grow, and support our volunteers and Clients, and meet funding targets.
- A new Strategic Plan for 2025-2028 has been developed and approved by the Board.
- We have continued to raise our presence within the local communities, and have held fund raising events with local businesses. We are grateful for their support. We pride ourselves as being an important and integral part of our community.
- We have a good relationship with Market Harborough and The Bowden's Charity and our Charity Manager, Julia Synnott, meets with them regularly.
- VASL continues to hold 2 external awards: Investing in Volunteers and Trusted Charity Mark level 2.
- VASL won County Charity of the Year at the VAL Awards in October 2024

I am delighted to report the conclusion that VASL is a highly successful, well run, and financially secure charity and is in an excellent position to face the necessary changes during the coming year.

We are, as ever, most grateful to all of those who have provided funds to support our work throughout 2024/25. The funding that we have received has ranged from individual donations, one-off pots of funding from individuals, community groups and businesses, to larger grants from organisations including:

- Leicestershire County Council

- Harborough District Council
- Charnwood Borough Council
- Market Harborough and the Bowden's Charity
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Masonic Charitable Trust
- Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust
- The Energy Savings Trust

The essential ingredients to the services provided by VASL are the creativity, innovation, values and the dedication of our managers, staff and 150 volunteers who help deliver them.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees I want to say how proud we are of all of our staff. Thank you so much for all you do for VASL, our clients and our communities.

A special 'thank you' to Julia Synnott, our Charity Manager. She serves the charity, the board and our communities exceptionally well. Under her leadership, VASL has continued to develop and thrive. Thank you, Julia.

Thank you, too, to our Volunteers and Members who continue to work so hard for us and our clients. Without you, we could not deliver the range and quantity of services we do.

Thank you, everyone.

Lastly, my thanks to my fellow trustees. We have had some challenges over the year but, with your support and excellent contributions to our deliberations and decision making, we have come through them and helped the organisation move forward. Thank you for your time, commitment and support. I've loved working with you all again this year.

Finally, I cannot end this welcome and introduction without mentioning the next big, and exciting change for us all.

Some months ago, the board decided that we needed to move from our offices at Torch House, which had served us well, as an efficiency saving. However, there were lots of other positives which led to our decision, not least to increase our visibility in Market Harborough, be nearer to our other partner organisations, and fully demonstrate our engagement and commitment to our community.

We hope that next month, we will be moving into new premises where the Lloyds Bank was located next to the Old Grammar School in the centre of the town. We are really excited about it.

The office move has taken longer than we had hoped and most of our staff have been working from home since the move from Torch House at the end of March. The Board is grateful for their patience and forbearance; we have no doubt that it will have been worth it as we begin the next exciting chapter in VASL's history.

We will be holding an open day event early in the New Year when we will invite our partner agencies, our volunteers and members to come and have a look and learn more about what we shall be doing over the coming months.

Thank you. Let's move on to the business.

Invite to ask questions – no questions.

3. Apologies for absence – Angela Holdsworth, Lauren Woolley and Richard Clare.
4. Resolution 1:- Adoption of the Annual Report and Year End Accounts 2024/25 – Presented by Julia Synnott, our Charity Manager
  - a. Proposer: Kate Godber
  - b. Seconder: Jonno Jackson
  - c. Vote -Approved

- Total income for the year: £586,776 (up £31k from £555,636 in 2024)
- Total expenditure: £606,465 (up slightly £11k from £595,519 in 2024).
- Net result: A small deficit of £19,689 (2024 deficit was £39,883).
- Year-end funds carried forward: £315,151 (down from £334,840 last year).

Although, we spent a bit more than you brought in, the shortfall was smaller than last year, and VASL still holds over £315k in reserves.

Income Breakdown:

1. Donations and Legacies (£508,330) our largest source of income. Increased from £494,722 last year.
2. Charitable Activities (£72,459) represents income generated directly from delivering our charitable work. Increased from £55,846 in 2024.
3. Investment Income (£5,824) shows a slight increase from £5,068 last year due to bank interest.
4. Other Income (£163) received from redundant Office equipment.

Expenditure:

- Charitable Activities (£606,465) spending includes delivering services and organisational running costs. This rose slightly from £595,519 in 2024.

Restricted and Unrestricted Funds:

- Restricted funds (£102,085) included money that must be spent on specific projects (e.g., funder restrictions). This fell from £139,957 to £102,085.
- Unrestricted funds (£213,066) included money that can be used more flexibly for running the organisation. This rose slightly from £194,903 → £213,066.

Total funds carried forward: £315,151.

Overall, VASL remains in a strong financial position, though much of the balance is tied up in restricted projects. Our income is growing steadily, particularly through donations and project-related activity. Our expenditure also increased, but the deficit is smaller than last year. Reserves remain healthy, with a good balance of unrestricted funds to keep operations sustainable. Our funding position remains strong, however as costs continue to rise, we will be monitoring closely.

Comments received:

Members will need to comment after event as they do not have the accounts in front of them. There was also a suggestion that the accounts is presented in a shortened and more accessible way next year, so the audit paperwork is intensive. LJ understood the comments and apologised that there was a delay in with the accountants providing the finalised audit later than planned. The board will consider a more accessible presentation of the accounts for next year.

5. Resolution 2:- Trustees Retirement by Rotation and Re Elections

We have had 1 trustee retirement from the board: Howard Grant. We were very sorry to lose Howard. He had been of great value to the board and to VASL. He brought a wealth of senior management experience in the private sector and, as a trained accountant, was scrupulous about addressing budgetary issues, giving his advice willingly. But, we are most grateful for his many years of service to us.

Each year, we are required by our Articles of Association that a third of our trustees stand for and put themselves up for re-election. This year it is the time of Angela Holdsworth and Suzanne Packer. I am pleased that they are both willing to put themselves up for re-election.

- a. Proposer: David Robbins
- b. Seconder: Kate Godber
- c. Vote - Agreed

6. Resolution 3:- Election of Trustees Appointed during the last year  
This year we have welcomed 1 new trustee to the board this year: Jonathan (Jonno) Johnson. Appointed on 31<sup>st</sup> March, Jonno has already made some excellent contributions to the board.

- a. Proposer: Kate Godber
- b. Seconder: David Robbins

c. Vote: Approved

7. Resolution 5:- Appointment and remuneration of Independent Examiner/ Auditor – Julia to propose the re-appointment of our Auditor: Edward Thomas Peirson & Sons

a. Proposer: Jonno Jackson

b. Seconder: Tony Conlin

c. Vote: Approved

8. Any other business

Jonno Jackson – Thanks to Linda J for all the work you do and for making him feel welcome to the board.

9. Date of next Board of Trustees' Meeting – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30pm on Zoom

10. Formal business meeting closed

11. 6.00pm Close of meeting