

The Kingsbury Community Enterprise Ltd
Annual Members Meeting
Tuesday 22nd September 2026

Held at KE St Martin's Church Hall 7:00pm

Committee Members Present: Joanna Hancock (JH) **Chair**, Heather Pearce (HP), Phil Parratt (PP) **Secretary**, Angie Clay (AC) **Treasurer**

Apologies received: Carrie Hartley (Committee Member), Sarah Blaze, Patrick Godwin, Sarah Perrett, Jayne Taylor, Simon Taylor, Sue McAndrew, Susan Irvine, Katy Cronin, Mike Williams, Pauline Warren

Minutes: PP

Attendees (excluding those mentioned above).

Carolyn Perrin, Lois Short, Tim Andrews, Jane Baldock, Jo Beheit, Anne Blotheridge, Ken Blotheridge, Angus Brazier, Claire Brown, Rose Burton, Geoff Busby, Theresa Busby, Jillian Fawcett, Michael Hancock, David Hartley, Lorraine Langford, Sara Leach, Di Scriven, Sylvia Shuttleworth, Anthony Startup, Jen Startup, Annie White, Roy White, Adrian Bridge, Joanne Dean, Kris Lloyd, Steve Mason, Angel Thornton, Jo Humphries, Helen Aldhous, Jo Dowling, Jack Lewis, Lois Short, Brady Davis, Suzanne Davis

After the meeting those present enjoyed teas and coffees, wines and nibbles and refreshments provided by members of the Committee.

The meeting began.

1.	Report on Quorum Membership Secretary Phil Parratt reported that of 246 members on our list 32 are present, comfortably exceeding the 10% quorum.
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2.

Chair Joanna Hancock gave a welcome.

Thanks were offered:

To Angus for his years of service. How relieved we are to see him here after severe illness.

To our paid staff – Anna and Sheena in the kitchen who work hard especially when (as often) they work on their own.

Carolyn our bookkeeper who had a change of accounting system to cope with this year.

Alan our cleaner who also volunteers to help people opening up the shop.

Our young staff members we said goodbye to Ollie and Charlotte, and welcoming Ella and Dylan.

We have had the good fortune to support several Duke of Edinburgh students (like Ella and Dylan), Sophie, (another) Ella and Evelyn volunteer, Joe was with us for a while and Sally helped over the summer.

Our Suppliers: Bakery Roy- Al not only supply our bread, but the May Festival Pasties (we made £1,000 profit from selling), Paddy at Vine Wines, Duncan at Burrow hill for his Strawberries and veg, Longmans (now Fine Foods), Chris Routley for flowers in a difficult year, Puffin Laundry for dry cleaning, Sue McInnes supplying honey, Sausage shed, McAdams Butchers, and more.

We thank all who have donated to the shop. For example there was £260 in the donations pot in the shop. Bare Fest donated £100.

We were again grateful to be supported by a grant from the Parish Council. This years award has been £10,000 which will be drawn down as the money is spent.

Our Volunteers are vital of course, in the café we said goodbye to Jane (though she steps in when she can), and goodbye to John Mcgrouter after many years. We said hello to six new volunteers – Eric White, Laura Hartley, Michael Brown, Dr Adrian Bridge, Mary Roberts and Caroline Ireland, and welcome back to Pauline Warren. Welcome and thank you.

Sarah Blaze stepped down from the Committee due to business and work commitments, we thank her for her contribution. Sarah continues to do weekly reconciliation of the Post Office and a Saturday morning shift.

It has been remarkable but not surprising the way the volunteer team has responded while Angus was away ill, and over the summer's holiday absences. The team has jointly a set of skills that enable us to run the business together.

To our customers and members we say thank you, the shop exists for you and because of you.

Thanks to everyone mentioned and a round of applause was called for. (Applause)

The committee members introduced themselves, and Joanna thanked Carrie Hartley for her work on the committee and in the shop but who cannot be present not being well enough.

Carolyn Perrin thanked the Committee on behalf of those present. (Applause)

3.	Election of Committee Members Joanna suggested that anyone considering joining the committee contact her after the meeting. There were no offers on the night.
4.	Treasurers Report AC gave an explanation of key matters from the finalised Accounts (to be published on the website) accompanied by an overhead presentation. We made a loss of £745 if donations and grants are excluded. Turnover on the year was up 3% but gross profit down, Margin percentage dropped from 29% to 28.1% (this year it is 28.6% but on a turnover down on last year). The PC grant on the year was £8,000 and was spent on the Refurb. Cash at bank – went from £74,000 to £64,000 as the refurb money was spent (another £11,000 refurb spend is intended in the current year). We have a plan (budget) that we use to monitor trading performance. The plan is close to actual performance except in gross profit which stands at 28.8% vs plan at 29.7. We saw decreased staff costs – the age of younger paid staff makes a real difference with differing minimum wage levels at 16 and 18. We use Metabase to analyse sales and margin and the new Xero accounting system will allow analysis of spend by supplier. Our main focus is maintaining margin and looking at product mix to get our overall margin up. Looking at trade it is likely that the general picture of the rising cost of living is contributing to our reduction in sales. We monitor our finances carefully with a deep dive every three months. Questions from the floor: Jo Dowling are we monitoring cost of waste? Yes we measure cost of waste but it doesn't seem a large figure.

5

Our Village Shop – a summary of the year and our plans going forward

Last year we presented plans for the refurbishment, and a lot happened, on time and on budget! We have had positive feedback from customers. Thanks to everyone involved: suppliers, trades people, volunteers.

Thanks to Laura and Katy we have improved our Social Media, linking Facebook and Instagram and posting to local sites.

The year has seen floods, heat, price increases, roads closed, more change and medical challenges (Angus and others), ops on knees, eyes, hips and ankles!

We coped, and hope for roads to stay open, and for some rain.

We have a good team in place to make sure we get the right products at the right price to cover our costs and meet our customers' needs.

Our Parish Council grant will enable us to replace ageing fridges with more efficient ones, we will change the product layout when new gondolas are installed.

A long running story is that of road signage and we are waiting on any permissions planning/highways need.

We are recruiting for a paid Shift for a paid Shift Leader/ Post Office Assistant who will be responsible for monitoring product margins and profitability, alongside how we present stock, working closely with the team. We had good responses to the recruitment and with Heather have completed interviews and will be able to announce the outcome soon.

We are preparing our submission to the PC for next year – looking at LED lighting in the shop, possible and update of the website, and at some point will have to update the kitchen.

Questions were raised from the floor and the meeting ended (for the Special Members Meeting to begin).

Special Members Meeting

The Chair convened a Special Members Meeting for a single resolution as given in advance.

It is proposed to alter Model Rules rule 4.8 according to the texts given in advance.

The Chair explained that the Rule requires letters to be sent or hand delivered the members with no email address, which we did this year sending to 100 members inviting them to the AMM and explaining also the Special Meeting. There is cost and effort involved in post that we believe should be avoided with the proposed rule change. Plunkett Foundation has been consulted and is supportive of the change.

The response to our letters was good, with some 40 emails being supplied and about 10 members were found to wish to resign or were deceased.

The Resolution

It is resolved to alter Model Rules rule 4.8 to read:

4.8 Notice of a Members' Meeting is to be given at least 14 clear days before the date of the meeting, by written notice displayed in the Kingsbury Community Shop, sent by Electronic Communication to every Member at the Electronic Communication address given in the Register of Members, posted on any current KCEL social media accounts and on the KCEL website.

Proposed JH, Seconded AC, and agreed unanimously.

The meeting was closed and followed with refreshments.