**Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 21 November 2019**

Toynbee Hall, 29 Commercial Street, London E1 6LS

**Present**

*Representing member organisations*

Lawrence **Walker** A New Direction

Sally **Dickinson** Berkeley Foundation

Sally **Healy** Berkeley Foundation

Sufina **Ahmad** City of London Corporation

Ayesha **Tariq** Clothworkers Foundation

Yvonne **Amar** Cloudesley

Helen **Kersley** Cripplegate Foundation

Farah **Elahi** Greater London Authority

Natasha **Graham** Greater London Authority

Sarah **Mulley** Greater London Authority

Lopa **Sarkar** Greater London Authority

Alice **Wilcock** Greater London Authority

Rohan **Martyres** Guy's And St Thomas' Charity

Bally **Dhaliwal** Henry Smith Charity

Jessica **Stewart** Henry Smith Charity

Erik **Mesel** John Lyon's Charity

Susan **Botros** London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Monica **Needs** London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Jerry **Haley** London Borough of Havering

Mayuri **Raja** London Borough of Havering

Victoria **Lawson** London Borough of Hounslow

Andrew **Matheson** London Borough of Southwark

Andrea **McDermott** London Boroughs Of Richmond And Wandsworth

Yolande **Burgess** London Councils

Eleanor **Grant** London Marathon Charitable Trust

Rosemary **Watt-Wyness** London Youth

Su-Mei **Thompson** Media Trust

Sacha **Rose-Smith** National Lottery Community Fund

Fatima **Asif** New Philanthropy Capital

Matt **Pounder** Premier League Charitable Fund

John **Griffiths** Rocket Science

David **Farnsworth** The City Bridge Trust

Sam **Grimmett-Batt** The City Bridge Trust

Amanda **Tincknell** The Cranfield Trust

Ciorsdan **Brown** The Goldsmiths' Company

Caroline **Forster** The Migration Foundation

Andy **Gregg** The Migration Foundation

Shaun **Danquah** The Social Innovation Partnership

Genevieve **Laurier** The Social Innovation Partnership

Ayo **Wallace** The Tudor Trust

Jim **Minton** Toynbee Hall

Dawn **Jackson** Turn2Us

Sonya **Ruparel** Turn2Us

James **Hope** Woodroffe Benton

Lizzy **Hawkins** Young Barnet Foundation

Dan **Burke** Young Harrow Foundation

*Staff team in attendance*

James Banks, Geraldine Blake, Geraldine Tovey, and Grace Perry

**1 Introduction and Apologies for Absence**

David Farnsworth (Chair) welcomed attendees to the AGM, highlighting that London Funders is now 147 strong, with 31 members present (apologies from a further nine members, though none had wished to appoint a proxy so all votes would be cast in person).

**2 To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 November 2019**

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Rohan Maytres (Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity) and seconded by Erik Mesel (John Lyon’s Charity). All members agreed and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

**3 To receive the Report and Accounts for 2018/2019**

James Banks (Chief Executive) walked attendees through the Report and Accounts for 2018/19.

James notes that, as members will see from the report, it was another busy year for London Funders, as we started implementing our new strategy and business plan, informed by the voices of members and friends across the sector. We’re obviously building on a strong track record, but with a shift in emphasis to ensuring that the work we do is focused on meeting the needs and ambitions of Londoners, and it’s been fantastic to work with such a committed group of members over the year to start delivering these plans.

Over the course of the year our membership increased to 141, and we’ve since welcomed many more members. We also boosted our programme of events, with over 25% more events, 72 in total, which brought 1,450 people to discuss and engage with the issues facing London.

Our learning, connecting and sharing work also saw our reach increase to over 5,500 people, and over 1,500 were engaged with our policy and practice briefings and meetings.

The year saw us deliver some higher profile events that brought people together, including our Big Network Day, as well as publishing “The possible not the perfect” looking at the funder response to emergencies. We also started work on a number of reports from our exploration of the issues around violence affecting young people, to our report on the resilience of people in community facing organisations, to our review of reviews looking at the big issues affecting London.

We were active in contributing to policy, from featuring in the government’s civil society strategy, to engaging in the philanthropy reviews in London over the year, to helping with the Young Londoners Fund and the establishment of the Violence Reduction Unit in London.

We also strengthened our work on collaboration, whether through the London’s Giving programme moving out to more boroughs, issue-focused collaborations such as our support for investment in the Deaf and Disabled People’s sector, or our continued work on the Way Ahead programme, including supporting the establishment of the Cornerstone Fund to strengthen the sector. Linked to this, we completed the first mapping of member spending in London, to help identify where some of the hot and cold spots for funding were, to help inform our programme of work to try to ensure that funding gets to where it’s needed in London.

Alongside our own core work, we continued to provide parent body support to the London Emergencies Trust as it continued the difficult work of ensuring funds flowed to people affected by the Grenfell Tower fire and the terrorist attacks that hit London, together with positively engaging with other funder networks to share our learning beyond London, such as working with a group of funders in Manchester on issues of common concern.

All of this has helped us set some ambitious plans for the 2019/20 year, that we’re proud to be working well towards – from our recent work on Brexit, the establishment of new network groups on advice, homelessness, culture, and upcoming work to strengthen data and intelligence about the funding community in London.

We can only do this with an amazing membership who support, encourage and inspire us to do this work, and with an incredibly motivating Board of Trustees, so on behalf of the team (Geraldine, Geraldine, Grace and myself) thank you all for being such good friends and champions of the ambitions we can realise when we work well together as a network.

**4 To elect new members of the Board of Trustees to serve from 2019-22**

David Farnsworth (Chair) explained to attendees that London Funders is governed by 12 trustees, and that this year, there are four Trustees stepping down, two of whom are eligible for re-election: John Griffiths and Victoria Lawson. There is also a new person who has put themselves forward for election, Sara Cooney. As part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion we also circulated in advance the current diversity audit results of the Board, so you can see who we are and where we have gaps in representation.

There are four spaces available on the Board, with three candidates standing for them, so unless anyone objects we would like to vote for these Trustees en bloc rather than by secret ballot.

Members agreed to vote for all Trustees in one motion, and voting papers were circulated to full members present in the room.

**5 Any other business**

No other business was raised.

**6 Announcement of results of election to the Board of Trustees**

David announced that the en bloc vote by members meant that members had chosen to re-elect John Griffiths and Victoria Lawson, and to elect Sara Cooney.

David extended his thanks to all members of the Board over the last year, to members and the team for their work during, and gave congratulations to John, Victoria and Sara..

**7 Closing remarks by Chair**

David thanked members for their time and their votes, and shared farewell remarks to Sacha Rose-Smith (The National Lottery Community Fund) and Caroline Foster, who were standing down from the Board. Both received gifts. With no further business raised the meeting ended at 6.30pm.