



Southampton Voluntary Services

Voluntary Action Centre, Kingsland Square, St Mary Street, Southampton, SO14 1NW
 Phone: 023 8022 8291 Fax: 023 8022 2929
 Website: www.southamptonvs.org.uk

Minutes Of The 27th Annual General Meeting of Southampton Voluntary Services Held On Friday 5th December 2025

Attendees:

Dr Ronda Gowland-Pryde	Trustee / University of Southampton
Carole Rogers	SVS
David Wrighton	Trustee
Amanda Kelly	Healthwatch Southampton
Sapna Singh	AWCA
Rebecca Gale	PSL
Babs Kaur	PSL
Phil Tyler	Southampton Tenants Union and SACDA (Co-ops) Southampton)
Dee Brown	SO:Linked / SPECTRUM
Jill Ghanouni	NHS Southampton Sea City Partnership
Peter Hale MBE, Ply	SVS Executive Committee
Dr Jess Spurrell	University of Southampton – Public Engagement with Research unit (PERu)
Esther Ridsdale	Ibex – Church in the Community Coordinator
Holly Press	Yellow Door
Annie Clewlow	Communicare in Southampton & SMHN
Stephanie Ramsey	SVS
Lynda Walton	Holyrood Estate
David Hutchings	Southampton & District Transport Heritage Trust
Nikki Walters	CLEAR project
James McCullough	SARC
Mike Treasure Jones	SVS
Beth Osborne	Saints Foundation
Alla	CLEAR project
Phil Aubrey-Harris	SVS



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SVS Staff Attending:

Rob Kurn	SVS CEO
Joe Jenness	SVS Senior Manager
Katie Andrews	Volunteer Development Worker
Lachlan Gilchrist	Community Development Worker
Tanvi Singhal	Community Development Worker
Debbie Vine	SVS Business Support Team
Lynn	SVS Business Support Team
Emma Bowley	Healthwatch Southampton
Jo Payne	Healthwatch Southampton



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Rob Kurn called meeting to order

1. **Welcome** - Stephanie Ramsey, SVS chair opened the 27th Annual General Meeting, welcomed guests and members, and thanked The Sheriff of Southampton – Councillor Patricia Evemy for presiding over the AGM, and hand over to the Sheriff.
2. **Apologies** – 5 apologies listed below noted by Stephanie Ramsey
 - a. Kirsty Rowlinson
 - b. Kevin Liles
 - c. Ros Cassey
 - d. Victoria Ugwoeme

3. Minutes of 26th Annual General Meeting held on 15th November 2024

Unanimously agreed that the minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting held 15th November 2024 were a true and accurate record.

Proposed Phil Aubrey-Harris
Seconded David Wrighton

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. Presentation of SVS Annual Report 2024 – 2025

Rob Kurn, CEO, presented the 27th annual report for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Rob reported on key changes in perspectives and experience in Southampton – upheaval in social and political landscape as well as differences made by people standing up and together to support.

Rob reported on key areas of SVS community development and infrastructure support activities as by NAVCA's Four Pillars of Infrastructure - Leadership and Advocacy, Partnership and Collaboration, Community Development, and Volunteering.



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- Leadership and Advocacy; advocacy at SSP and through HIVCA, lead on VCSE alliance with a view to bring together a wider coalition of VCSE organisation by developing a VCSE covenant to publish in 2026 similar to national covenant conversations, SEAS contract in the middle of tendering for, Coproduction Corner collaboration.
- Partnership and Collaboration; overview of various networks and alliances headed under SVS. Young Southampton looking to become a registered charity.
- Community Development; building capacity, infrastructure support, mediating disputes etc.
- Volunteering; drop ins and 1-to-1 support, celebration events, coordinating groups, Voice of volunteering radio etc

Research and Insight via placement with the University of Southampton since its beginning ; Green Social Prescribing Impact Research Project (and Toolkit), community participatory action research legacy projects etc

Healthwatch Southampton; five reports published over the year, nominated for National Healthwatch Award etc, the independence of Healthwatch is important to its action as a healthcare advocacy body.

City Shopmobility; many visitors and members, grateful for the financial support from Westquay.

Community Roots; worked closely with CGL, Probation, was one of the green social prescribing research reports' case study, has been handed over from Wendy Redman to Rebecca.

24/25 Priorities; priorities have been achieved with Voluntary Action Centre Community Space Offer and SVS Strategy Publication which is on-going/going forward into the priorities for the future to coincide with the implementation of SEAS

25/26 Priorities; Coproduction Corner to be bolstered to be more active and productive, SEAS development and deliver, Community space offer, Community Roots needs new funding with CGL stepping back, United city initiative to combat against the divisive racist and anti-immigration rhetoric being spoken around Southampton.

Rob thanked the funders and the staff, volunteers and trustees for their hard work and support. Rob noted the contribution of two key members of SVS who have passed away this year: Harry Diamond chair of Healthwatch from 2013-2024, Mary Carnegie Trustees



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6. Presentation of SVS Annual Accounts 01.04.2024– 31.03.2025

The Sheriff invited Carole Rodgers to present the Annual Accounts.

Carole Rodgers introduced herself as Honorary Treasurer. She explained the governance process of SVS finances. She advised that the full accounts are on the SVS website and are available on request. She explained that the accounts are formally approved by the Executive Committee. The finance sub-committee meets four times a year to discuss the general issues which are reported to the full Executive Committee. Responsibilities delegated from CEO to Senior Manager (Jude). The Executive Committee review the reserves to determine if they are sufficient.

Funding trends show a decline and anticipate at best a plateau in funding trends.

Total income £824,882

Unrestricted £56,919, Restricted £767,963

SVS Key funders – SCC, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board, University of Southampton, West Quay, Hammertons

Key In-kind support through volunteers totalled £45,021

Expenditure £689,685, Restricted £747,646, Unrestricted

Equal opportunity employer - showing no significant gender pay gap

Examination of the accounts by Morris Crocker showing no issues and demonstrating SVS is a going concern.

Sheriff invited proposer and seconder for the adoption of the accounts

Proposed Phil Aubrey-Harris

Seconded Rhonda Gowland-Pryde

Unanimous vote



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7. To elect members of the Executive Committee and the Honorary Officers.

The Sheriff presided in three parts:

a. Resignations

Retirement of Mary Carnegie in year. Chair noted the subsequent death of Mary Carnegie. To note resignation of Stephanie Ramsey, Kirsty Rowlinson, Phil Aubrey Harris, and Peter Hull on rotation

b. Election of Executive Committee Members

POSITION	NAME	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED
Committee Member (returning)	Stephanie Ransey	Executive Committee	Carole Rogers
Committee Member (returning)	Kirsty Rowlinson	Executive Committee	Holly Press
Committee Member (returning)	Phil Aubrey- Harris	Executive Committee	David Wrighton
Committee Member (returning)	Peter Hull	Executive Committee	Annie Clewlow

To note election of returning committee members Stephanie Ramsey, Kirsty Rowlinson, Phil Aubrey-Harris, and Peter Hull. Nominated by Executive Committee, The Sheriff to invite seconder. As there is no contested vacancy Lord Mayor to suggest vote en bloc - In Favour, Against, Abstention

One abstention All in favour

c. Election of Honorary Officers



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POSITION	NAME	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED
Chair	Stephanie Ramsey	Executive Committee	Phil Tyler
Vice Chair	tbc	tbc	
Hon Treasurer	Carole Rogers	Executive Committee	Gill Ghanouni

The Sheriff invited seconds for each nomination. As there is no contested vacancy The Sheriff suggested vote en bloc - In Favour, Against, Abstention)

One abstention, All in favour

8. To appoint Morris Crocker as Independent Examiners of the company, to hold office until the conclusion of the next General Meeting at which the accounts are laid before the company

The Sheriff invited proposer and seconder, and invited members to vote – in favour, against, abstention.

Proposed Carole Rogers
 Seconder Rhonda Gowland-Pryde

All in favour

9. To authorise the members of the Executive Committee to fix the remuneration of the Independent Examiners

Proposed Carole Rogers
 Seconder Phil Aubrey-Harris

All in favour



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10. Concluding Comments and Close of Meeting

Stephanie Ramsey reflects on the challenges of the year in the voluntary and statutory sector. Many factors making matters tough and insecure but she reflects on the passion and positive behaviour change being seen in the public especially by the number of volunteers seen over the year. A lot of collaborative working and capacity building seen in the VCSE alliance and other areas. Stronger partnership working with the SCC and having a voluntary sector agreement for further positive work. Great positive work and research done in collaboration with the University. This all helps to build the resilience to move through challenging times.

Thanked all attendees, the Sheriff for attending to preside, and funders for their support and contribution. Thank you to the staff and CEO for their work and achievements over the year.

Sheriff spoke about work with the voluntary sector. The capacity building is important to the growth and potential of the voluntary groups that are supported by the SCC and SVS especially as the withdrawal of voluntary groups affects the capacity of other groups. The networking facilitated by SVS is important for the peer support within the voluntary sector. The research of the value of the volunteers shows the importance of reporting what is done in the voluntary sector. She then thanks the voluntary groups that give this support.

Rob Kurn gives thanks to Joe Jenness for his support as Senior Manager and his role in writing the Impact Report, and Jude Perrott as senior manager preparing the annual account.

Date of next AGM – Friday 6th November 2026 12:00 – 14:00 at SVS.



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