

**Hands Together LUDLOW**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**3.00pm, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
**held at 15 Lower Galdeford, Ludlow, SY8 1RU.**

**Welcome:**

Sue Chantler, HTL Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those attending.

**Attendees:**

There were 29 attendees, of which the Trustees (numbering 8 in attendance), staff and Friends were eligible under the terms of the Hands Together Ludlow Constitution to vote if they had completed membership forms for the purposes of voting at the AGM.

**Apologies:**

There were 11 apologies given in advance of the meeting.

**Minutes of the last meeting:**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 16th May 2024 were agreed by the meeting as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

**Statement of Accounts:**

The Hands Together Ludlow Treasurer, Mike Beazley gave a brief overview of the accounts for the financial year 2024 and confirmed that HTL was in a sound financial position. Income over the year had risen compared with 2023 figures with funds coming mostly from grant funding. Expenditure had also increased significantly, mainly due to the addition of new full-time staff and costs associated with running the HTL building. For the year 2024, total income had been £281k and expenditure £213k, with a carry forward at the end of the year of £68k.

Mike confirmed that HTL's financial position was currently good, with an increase in unrestricted funding allowing for spending on need as it was identified. Going forward there is concern about sourcing grant funding (this concern is not unique to HTL), but HTL was pleased to confirm that it had just secured a grant of £20K over the course of the coming year from Ludlow Hospital League of Friends.

Mike also confirmed that since 2022 HTL had used Alan Layng as the external auditor for the accounts and took the opportunity to thank him for his continued support. Alan has confirmed that he was happy to do this again for the 2025 accounts and so Mike proposed that the meeting approved this appointment, which was agreed. Mike invited questions from the meeting, but none were forthcoming.

Sue Chantler thanked Mike for his report and continued support as HTL Treasurer.

**Annual Report:**

Sue Chantler referred all to the 2024 Annual Report and thanked staff for producing the booklet. The report highlighted that 2024 had been a demanding and dynamic year with challenges at national level, for example the cut to winter fuel allowance and at local level

for example the need to rapidly move our community lunch from Helena Lane to our Hub in Lower Galdeford. Sue referred the meeting to the maps within the Annual Report which plot the support given by HTL during 2024 and which show that the Charity is supporting the local community throughout the town. Going forward HTL's current financial position looks rosy, but a major source of grant funding, the National Lottery Community Fund will end in 2026, so HTL continues to review and plan for future need to remain sustainable.

Sue thanked the staff for their continued work and asked Susie O'Hagan, Chief Operating Officer to give further insight into the Charity's work. Susie began by thanking the local Ludlow Community, from the volunteers who give their time (the Volunteer Coordinator Teresa Bailey fills 70 volunteer shifts on a weekly basis), to the attendees who use the building in many different ways.

During 2024 HTL was successful in sourcing grant funding from the Heart of England Community Foundation, Ludlow Hospital League of Friends, and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with continued funding from The National Lottery and Hall Garth Settlement amongst others, but a lot of time is spent researching available funding going forward to allow for future planning. Regular giving, for example through the HTL Friends Scheme which was launched in 2024 allows for sustainable giving going forward and all are welcome to join.

During 2024 the staff team had settled allowing for strategic planning going forward, and the creation of a new Community and Projects Coordinator had allowed for the development of a Ludlow Community Support Network, bringing organisations together to give a more holistic approach to individual and group support in Ludlow. The network is continually communicating and updating to stay relevant and current, allowing for signposting and a sharing of resources and expertise.

Moving forward in 2025, HTL is working with Ludlow Town Council delivering Shaping Places for Healthier Lives through grant funding. HTL is also hosting The Big Event - a fundraising evening of fine dining, with a promises auction in St Laurence's Church on 12<sup>th</sup> September, showcasing food created using surplus (ticketed event). HTL is also currently partnering with Ludlow Quilters, selling raffle tickets for a quilt. The raffle will be drawn in the autumn.

Finally, Susie thanked all for attending and for their continued support.

### **Appointment of Trustees:**

Under section 13 of the Hands Together Ludlow Constitution, Trustees stand for three-year terms, with a minimum of three individuals obliged to stand down at each AGM and be re-elected if they chose to and if the meeting agrees.

Those Trustees part way through a three-year term and therefore not standing for re-election, but remaining in post are Sue Chantler (Chair), Helen Rooker, Nicholas Young, Marc Gaunt and Rob Jenkins.

Trustees standing for re-election after a three-year term were Chris Deaves (Deputy Chair) and Mike Beazley (Treasurer). Sue asked the members present at the meeting to confirm re-election via a show of hands - unanimous. Re-appointments approved.

During 2024 three people had been Co-opted to the Board. Katie Donaldson had since stood down due to changing work commitments, however, Graham Cheshire and Julia Evans were standing for election to full Board members at this AGM. The appointments were approved unanimously by the members of the meeting.

Janna Vigar has been a Trustee of HTL since the Charity's creation in 2017 and was due to stand down at the end of her three-year term before taking a break, however, Sue moved to co-opt Janna back onto the Board until July 2025. Agreed by the members. Sue took the opportunity to thank Janna for her time and dedication as a member of the Board of Hands Together Ludlow, instigating the Good Grief Café and playing an active role on the fundraising committee amongst other things and wished her well for the future when she leaves in July.

**Any Other Business:**

There was no other business.

Sue Chantler invited any further questions for discussion. None were raised.

**Date and time of next meeting:**

Hands Together Ludlow's next AGM will be held in May 2026, on a date and time, and at a venue which will be decided by the Trustees at a later date.

Sue Chantler thanked all those who had taken the time and trouble to attend the meeting.

Meeting closed at 3.25pm.