

**Ribble Valley Jazz & Blues**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**26 March 2025 – Trinity Community Hub, Clitheroe**

**1. Attendees and Apologies for Absence**

Attached as separate list

**2 Minutes of previous AGM**

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were agreed as a correct record

- 3** Ed Lomax gave a tribute to Eric Ainsworth, a long serving supporter of RVJ&B who had recently died.

**4. Annual Report**

The Chair presented his Annual Report for the year main point to note :-

- The Chair thanked fellow Trustees and numerous volunteers for the outstanding efforts to keep RVJ&B thriving.
- The Festival in March24 was a musical success, but paid gigs were not well attended and made a significant deficit, free fringe venue gigs were very popular, and bucket collections made a significant contribution. Overall the Festival had to utilise ACE funding to be viable.
- Other gigs at the Grand were held, with varying levels of audience attendances, meaning that they were run at a deficit. Continued Sunday Lunchtime gigs at Spread Eagle had continued to be popular.
- Apart from Club Gigs the Club has a number of on-going activities:-
  - Jazz Jam
  - RV Big Band
  - Improvisation Group
  - Elbow Room
  - Blue Funk
  - Weekly Radio Sows on Ribble FM
  - Young people activities continued to be developed

**5. Presentation and Adoption of Annual Accounts**

- The Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts and Independent Examiner's Report for 2023/24, which had been placed on the RVJ&B website two weeks earlier.
- The Annual Accounts showed a surplus of £2.2k for the year, compared with a deficit of £3.7k last year. Gig attendances were still below pre-covid levels and all gigs had to be subsidised to a considerable level from ACE funding.
- There was currently £16,985 in Reserves, of which £6,500 is restricted to activities specified in the ACE project, and £11,290 in cash balances.

- The Accounts had been approved by the Trustees/Directors on 18 March 2025 and were formally adopted for submission to Companies House and Charity Commission.

## **6. Election of Trustees**

- The existing Directors, and new Directors appointed during the year were unanimously re-elected to the Board.
- The AGM invitation had included a request to Members to nominate new Trustees/Directors, but none had been received.
- It is essential that we recruit new and younger Trustees to replace those retiring.
- It was unanimously agreed that Miles Peachey should be awarded Honorary Life Membership to recognise his service to RVJ&B over many years.

## **7. Review of Activities and the Way Forward**

- Arts Council of England Funding – the successful bid to Arts Council for £40k development funding over two years had been utilised to enhance and subsidise the club's activities. Kate Lowes gave a review of activities funded and progress made.
- 2024 Festival - The Festival had been a great musical success but with lower than expected audience numbers, resulting in a deficit of over £11k before any Arts Council subsidy, which had been the agreed allocation of £11k . Clitheroe was buzzing over the full weekend, and all free venues were really well attended.
- There was considerable discussion over the mix of musicians, and the drift away from pure jazz which concerned some members attending the AGM. It was pointed out that the diverse use of musicians had been a positive move as part of the ACE project delivery plan and commitment to attract younger audiences. Many of the local 'free' venues had requested a more upbeat style of music.
- All these views had been taken into account when planning the bookings for 2025, and the mix of musicians and appropriateness for individual venues would be considered very carefully by RVJ&B Trustees and Programming Group.
- It was suggested that RVJ&B could hold a Big Band Competition, inviting participation from across the whole of northern England.
- It was suggested that RVJ&B could book more local or regional musicians for the monthly gig schedule to give them performance opportunities.
- Phil Lee reviewed the current programme of proposed gigs and with the Grand not being viable as a venue, suggested that Trustees should look more broadly at alternative areas and venues to attract potential new audiences.

The Chair thanked all those attending the AGM and closed the meeting

## List of Attendees at RVJ&B AGM 26 March 2025

### **Trustees/Directors**

Dave Walters (Chair)  
John Drury  
Phil Lee  
Kate Lowes  
Analisa Smith

### **Honorary Life Members**

Paul Ellis  
Trish Ferrarin  
Gary Ward

### **Club Members**

Carol Balshaw  
Paul Balshaw  
Aidan Foley  
Sue Hind  
Geoff Holmes  
Ed Lomax  
Don Rowbottom  
Robert Phillips

### **Guests**

Gayle Knight  
Chris Holmes  
Paul Goodacre

### **Apologies received from**

Tom Ainsworth (Trustee)  
Phil Baugh (Trustee)  
Alfred Cerezo (HLM)  
John Flanagan (HLM)  
Sue Lightburn (HLM)  
Sue Bradley  
Wayne Kilmer  
Miles Peachey  
Lorraine Grice  
Barbara Stephens  
Bill Haigh  
Trevor Marklew  
Lesley Marklew  
Liz Walters