

Council for Learning Outside the Classroom Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 3rd December 2020

Meeting held virtually via Zoom

1. OPENING REMARKS

Steven Dool, Chair of the CLOtC Board of Trustees, welcomed attendees and summarised his annual report.

It is a huge understatement to describe this unprecedented year as challenging, as has been the case for all charities, schools, businesses and families up and down the country. The partnerships of all stakeholders in the sectors involved in learning outside the classroom have never been more important in ensuring that children and young people are able to benefit from high quality learning outside the classroom.

Following our last AGM, held at our annual conference in Blackpool in November 2019, when I was elected as Chair of CLOtC, we were also excited about the appointment of our new Chief Executive Dr Anne Hunt who officially took up her post in December 2020. The conference marked the new beginning of an even stronger partnership with the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel (OEAP) to bring together the best elements of support and guidance to schools on learning, teaching, curriculum development, educational visits, health and safety, influencing of policy and practice, accreditation and professional development.

I am pleased to report that the strengthening of this partnership, aimed at supporting users and providers of LOtC, has continued under the leadership of our new Chief Executive, along with the Chair and executive board of OEAP, and we are beginning to see huge benefits for our young people.

I want to commend the staff, members and supporters of CLOtC for all your hard work, commitment and expertise while you continued to prioritise the needs of children and young people, and their teachers, making sure learning opportunities, advice and support remained available to them during these most difficult circumstances. Thanks to our audit committee and other trustees for the support offered to the team. Our Chief Exec has made sure CLOtC has taken the initiative and played a leading role with others in the field of learning outside the classroom, to speak with one voice on matters affecting all LOtC sectors.

Our determination and resilience have been tested and we know many in the field of LOtC look to our organisation for help, advice and support and our team has done their very best to continue to provide the support needed. It's admirable that we've still been able to receive new memberships, continue partnership working and add to the number of schools engaging with LOtC Mark.

On behalf of the CLOtC Board please accept my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all members and colleagues in this LOtC community for all that you are doing to promote and maintain high quality learning experiences for thousands of young people.

Looking to the future

CLOtC's officers and trustees will continue working tirelessly to continue to be the bridge between providers, national government and schools, providing information, advice and guidance tailored to their needs when required.

We continue to face challenges that will test all our skills and experiences as we try to provide the very best for pupils, students and colleagues. What we have faced is unprecedented but I am sure our response in the

coming year will also be unprecedented. Our team has been busy writing guidance and resources to help more schools and other organisations take their learning beyond the classroom again, beginning with their school grounds and extending this confidence to activities in the local community, to residential centres nationally, and before long, to the spectacular and inspiring programmes beyond our shores again.

2. MINUTES OF AGM 2019

Steven presented the minutes of last AGM and report and asked members to confirm it is a true record.

Proposed by – Lesley Williams

Seconded by – Dave Harvey

3. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2019 UNTIL 31 MARCH 2020

The report was unanimously accepted.

Proposed by – Graham Lodge

Seconded by – David Scourfield

Steven took the opportunity to thank John Higgins, who has been CLOtC's accountant for many years and is now retiring. His expertise and support over the years has been an invaluable resource for the charity.

4. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The board recommends the appointment of Haines Watts, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, as CLOtC's independent examiner of our accounts for the period ending 31 March 2020.

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Proposed by – Justin Dillon

Seconded by – Dave Scourfield

5. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

There are no new appointments to the Board of Trustees.

Steve Dool, Justin Dillon and Colette Morris agreed to extend their terms, for which CLOtC is very grateful.

Graham Lodge stood down as a trustee this year but has agreed to stay on as a special adviser for the time being, his continued involvement with the charity will be a tremendous resource. Steven thanked Graham for his invaluable contribution to CLOtC and as chair of the LOtC Quality Badge committee for over 10 years. His leadership has been instrumental in the continued success of the LOtC Quality Badge scheme and his contribution to the committee will be sorely missed.

After 11 years in post Sally Thompson, Accreditations & CPD Manager, will be moving on from CLOtC in January. Steven thanked her for her hard work and dedication. Graham Lodge reminded the meeting that Sally has been key to the development of the LOtC Quality Badge and was responsible for the creation of LOtC Mark, CLOtC's highly regarded award scheme for schools.

6. INVITED SPEAKERS

Steven invited representatives from two schools to share their experience of learning outside the classroom.

Andrew Hutchings, Headteacher of Parkgate Primary School Cheshire, shared his thoughts on how the development of LOtC has supported school improvement since he took over leadership of the school.

Ruth Harkness, Principal at Craigavon Senior High School, Northern Ireland, spoke about using LOtC to underpin curriculum development to better meet the needs of pupils and support improved outcomes.

7. CLOSING REMARKS

Steven referred to his former school Neston High, underlining how proud he is of the school which achieved LOtC Mark (Gold) during his tenure as headteacher.

He presented some slides shared by Keith Simpson, Neston High's current headteacher, which underlined the importance of LOtC in all education but in particular at secondary level.

Steven closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the AGM and for their continued support of CLOtC.