

# Swansea Hackspace Annual General Meeting 2022

Swansea Hackspace, 21-22 Park Street, Swansea, SA1 3DJ.

2022-10-26, 19:00

**Present:** Alice Mitchell [AM], Liz Diffley [LD], Melissa Wheeler [MW],  
Thomas Lake [TL], Brittney Murphy [BM], Peter Barnes [PB],  
James Davey [JD], Osian Smith [OS], Tim Clark [TC], Gerrit Niezen [GN],  
Andy Rush [AR],  
**Online:** Sophia Komninou [SK]

**Apologies:** None Received

## 1. Matters Arising

Code of Conduct needs to be followed up and implemented, as this was caught up in other matters over the last few years

## 2. Election of Directors

All existing directors stood down for re-election, and MW duly elected

## 3. Financial Summary

£9.5k lottery grant has been awarded, but this is pre-allocated. This is to allow us to reopen. This covers 1 years rent, a fire alarm and further work on heating and electrical systems.

Rent is £5kpa, but current income is £4.5kpa. Even without other expenses there is a shortfall of ~£100pcm, which needs to be reversed rapidly.

We are eligible to apply for additional funding for a new project next year, and intend to apply.

There is no further break clause on the property, so we are committed to the venue for the next three years.

## 4. Advertising and Fundraising

Shopfront that can and should be used to promote the organisation.

4theregion is a business association that we could consider joining to gain advertising. There is a £5 or £10pcm charge to join. Some discussion followed about whether this is justifiable as it is approximately 1 member per month.

Can push for membership among Discord now we're starting to reopen. Also noted that events are easier to advertise than the Hackspace at large, so more events (and open days) will help.

There was a brief discussion about day membership, visitor use of machinery etc. - this is not particularly viable in line with our insurance / risks. We also need to focus on recurring rather than one off revenue. Jobs for hire/commission was also discussed, but the issue

remains that this is hard to run without dedicated members/staff who would be able to turn jobs around on a reliable time frame.

We are also part of Swansea BID by virtue of our location, and we should be able to use them for advertising and support.

Consider pushing a "big" opening event once we're in an improved position in terms of equipment and tidiness.

Shopfront: Interactive and animated projects would be great. Could consider making the Mk2 printer "dance"

Repair Cafe - they provide staff and insurance, but may need a space. Something to consider.

Lockers - will re-establish hire arrangements ASAP

## **5. Membership fees**

There was suggestion of increasing the minimum membership fee from £5. along with the balance to be made between increased barrier to entry and increased revenue. Most members are already paying more than £5pcm, so it is not currently a move that is likely to increase our income.

## **6. Workshops and Events**

- Lockpicking Intro
- Die cutting (Festive themed)
- Soldering badge workshop (once bugs fixed)
- More suggestions on Discord
- Intro to sewing
- ... and more to come from the suggestions list

Some suggestion that we should emphasise the crafting side of things rather than tech as more likely to gain new members.

Crafternoons could be restarted soon. Potentially monthly on Saturdays and then increase when volunteers/members permit.

Previously the build a robot course was quite popular and had gained us members in the short-ish term, so could consider running something similar again.

Can do introductory courses for (e.g. Arduino) again - previous format allowed people to drop in and start whenever. Flexible format is helpful.

More consistency would be helpful - repeating courses a few times a year may be helpful.

Modular build a bit each week type courses might be useful.

Can consider running radio courses - would be beneficial to register as an exam centre. It seems unlikely to impact on any of the other local groups.

## **7. Organisation and refurbishment - next stages**

- Fire alarm

- Electrical work
- Access and egress system.
- Generally happy to sell some of the older / excess equipment.

Noisy toilet needs/could be quieter.

Liz is going to turn some desks into a cutting table.

Upstairs also needs work - but is a bigger project.

Silkscreening equipment might be an option - potentially splitting the large upstairs room into wet workshop and dusty workshop.

Sewing machines and overlocker needed servicing - the sewing machine has been serviced in house, with temporary repairs to the overlocker. Long term the overlocker may need repairing, although the repair cafe may also be able to help.

## **8. Future Plans**

No further discussion carried out, as this had already been explored under previous items

## **9. Any other Business**

None raised

**Meeting closed 20:46**