Swansea Hackspace Annual General Meeting 2025

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

2025-12-10, 19:00

Present: Tim Clark [TC], Sophia Komninou [SK], Alice Mitchell [AM], Gerrit Niezen [GN], Osian Smith [OS], Nader Al Khatib [NA], Andy Rush [AR], James P [JP], Rebecca Little [RL], Liz Diffley [LD], Peter Barnes [PB].

By proxy: Paula Foscarini-Craggs [PF] proxied by Sophia Komninou [SK] and Joseph Bhart [JB] proxied by Tim Clark [TC].

Apologies: received 2 - Paula Foscarini-Craggs [PF] and Joseph Bhart [JB].

Meeting Opened: 19:05

Opening and Administration

Welcome and apologies for absence.
Confirmation of attendees and proxies.
Minutes of last AGM and matters arising Accepted as read – Proposed PB, Seconded AR

Financial Summary

We started the year with ~£4,100 in the bank, and finished with ~£6,900. The main reason for this ~£2,800 surplus is that we had a year's rent paid for by the lottery grant. We also have ~£5,800 lottery grant money remaining to spend.

Our income this year was ~£5,650 (up £720 on last year), which works out as an average of ~£14 per member. We started the year with 34 members, gained 3 and lost 2, finishing with 33.

Our expenses other than rent this year were ~£500 insurance, ~£200 internet, ~£450 utilities and ~£120 bank fees (GoCardless fees for collecting membership fees).

Overall we are running at a monthly deficit of approximately £50/month, an improvement from last year's £100/month.

The increased footfall in the space was discussed - there have been several monday nights in the last few months where the 1st floor was full (we ran out of chairs!). Footfall outside of Monday nights has also increased.

The website now recommends a donation of £15/month, as suggested last year.

We have renewed our lease for 5 years with a 2 year break point at the same rate, £5,000/year.

Election of Directors

JP was successful in being elected as a new director. 12 in favour, 1 abstained.

Advertising or fundraising

We discussed the lottery grant, and how it is unlikely that we would be awarded funding again if we applied this year.

We also discussed other grants we may be eligible for, and the amount of admin involved in applying for them. The postcode lottery was mentioned, and SVCS.

The consensus is that we should focus instead of becoming more financially independent, with the goal of breaking even before the next AGM.

We briefly discussed selling things to generate more income, but this was more or less dismissed due to the volunteer time required.

In terms of marketing, we discussed advertising ourselves in public, by potentially running a workshop outside the front of the building, or attending events in the city.

We also agreed that it would be worth looking into the cost of getting a nicer sign made and installed, and potentially commissioning lighting for it.

Also discussed was bringing back hack the space, and generally trying to improve the visual appeal of both the shopfront area, and the inside of the space itself.

A larger laser cutter was discussed, as a potential way to attract more members, but the consensus was that it would need to be significantly large (A1 or A0) to be worth upgrading.

Workshops

LD has offered to run a picture frame making workshop
JP has offered to run a FreeCAD workshop
NA has offered to run a microcontroller workshop
OS has offered to run a bike workshop (potentially outside the space)

Refurbishment (Workshop Progress)

We are now only waiting for the door to be completed, which we expect to happen next week. Following this, the workshop can be commissioned.

Workshop tool voting is nearly ready for member consultation.

JP asked about waste collection, TC answered that at the moment we are asking people to take rubbish away, but we are actively exploring all options.

LD gave an update on the roof leak, which will continue to be a problem until the roof is replaced.

We don’t plan on re-painting the wall until then, as it will get wet again.

Longer term plans

No specific long term plans to discuss.

Any other business

SK suggested we don’t have the AGM in winter? The consensus was to move it, either to early summer time, or September. Wednesday 2nd September was proposed as an option.

Dates were also set for the next Hack the Space, 10th January, and electronics club, 17th January.

LD asked what projects do people want to do, Sk answered basket weaving.

A Hackspace computer system was discussed, and it was left that this is something we would consider, if someone volunteers to create a prototype in a well-known programming language.

Heating was also discussed, and it was suggested that we add a heater for the sewing and electronics areas, and at least one additional heater to the social area.

Meeting Closed 20:05