

## STOCKPORT CREDIT UNION

### MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of MARCH 2024. VENUE - STOCKPORT MASONIC HALL

**Appendix:** All reports and accompanying documentation were available for all attendees to access.

#### Attendees:

M	Melanie Foster	Board Director	Chair / Nom
JG	James Gracey	Board Director	Vice Chair /Nom
AF	Andrew Foster	Board Director	Treasurer
EP	Elaine Preece	Board Director	Secretary / Nom /Community Engagement
JT	John Thomson	Board Director	ARC
RG	Rob Grant	Board Director	Nom
JH	John Haslam	CEO	

#### AGENDA

**1. Welcome & Introductions:** Melanie thanked everyone for coming and introduced all the Board members.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** Sheila Townsend, Helen Wilman, Pheobe Spence, Ian Roberts.

**3. Ascertainment of Quorum** – confirmed.

**4. Minutes of the AGM held on 13 March 2023.-**

*Resolution 1.*

i. *Do you approve the minutes of the 2023 AGM as a true record?*

Proposed by JG. Seconded by JT. Show of hands- majority achieved.

ii. *Matters Arising from the minutes of 2023 AGM.* There were no matters arising.

**5. Report from the Chair of the Board -As per attachment.** Melanie thanked personnel and outlined the measures that had futureproofed SCU latterly:

Joanne Griffiths – Previous Chair of Board

Sheila Murtagh- Interim CEO

John Thompson- Regulatory Governance

Brett Cordall - Compliance

Stephen Johnson- Cyber Security- Existing Infrastructure moved to the Cloud Staff

**6. Report from the Treasurer, Andrew Foster(slides) –** Andrew compared the performance over last four years.

Key points

- Loan and bank interest increased.
- Drop in impairment- thanked Helen (Credit Control Officer).

- Expenditure up -cyber security and compliance person.
- Thanked Tracey for managing the upgrades.
- Despite increased interest rate in market, SCU moved members onto lower interest loan.
- Operational deficit just over £18K.
- The areas for growth in the common bond outlined.
- Capital ratio maps out reserves and assets -well above PRA guidelines.
- Liquidity ratio @ 50% - PRA guideline 10%.
- Directors not proposing an adult dividend this year, but 3% dividend on junior accounts.
- Thanked Paul (finance personnel).

Questions from the floor:

**Q Asked** about CEO, staff costs, and grant income since end of September 2023

**A** Andrew- Brett, (compliance employee) not on staff now.

**A** John gave *Fair for All Finance* grant information. Government scheme is the main source of income for credit unions. Work with FfAF ongoing.

Andrew- February 2023/24, same surplus of £10K.

**Q** How do SCUs arrears compare with other CUs.

**A** Andrew- SCU in middle. Figures coming down. Looking to improve arrears particularly post 6 months.

**Q** about loan interest.

**A** Andrew Saving rewarded- explained saver loan terms. We are not allowed to charge more than 42.6 %

**Q** No dividend this year. Why only half the money lent out?

**A** Andrew. The cost-of-living crisis affected loan amounts.

**A** John-SCU ahead of where we should be re Loans to Assets ratio. (most important ratio). Working on our new common bond. Our target for loans year on year is 10% absolute minimum. The average ABCUL growth is 4-5% One third of CUs saw their loan book go back.

## 7. Auditor's Report and Accounts from Treasurer

*Resolution 2 Do you approve the Auditor's Report and Adoption of Financial Statements for the year ending September 2023?*

Proposed by MF. Seconded by EP. Show of hands. Majority achieved.

## 8. Recommendation for application of surplus. - Treasurer.

Proposed by RG. Seconded by JH. Ratified by members.

## 9. Report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee -John Thompson

Presented as per attachment – Key elements from report: -

- Consumer Duty Plan.
- Committee Arrangements.
- Looking to the future.

**JT** also outlined how SCU is compliant with PRA rules on *Depositor Protection*. John thanked the staff and spoke about SCU's highly professional Board. Many credit unions had closed mainly due to poor governance.

Questions from the floor:

**Savings-** if top% of savings is taken out, what is the average share balance?

**JT-** will get back to questioner with exact figures.

**Q** Will there be a face-to-face AGM next year? **JH** took this.

**A** The pros and cons of face-to-face, virtual or hybrids were discussed. A vote of those present confirmed preference for a virtual AGM. **JH** happy to take feedback from our members any time on this subject.

**Q** Will the collection points be reopening? **JH** had a detailed interaction with the questioner on this subject. He concluded that we are very happy to speak to anyone who wishes to be a volunteer with SCU.

### **9. Appointment of External Auditors**

Proposed JH. Seconded RG. Show of hands. Majority achieved.

### **10. Report from the Chief Executive Officer- John Haslam**

John gave a commentary (slides) of his proposal for the three rulebook changes. Rules 3,7 and 98

Rule 3. Proposal to add a new object.

Rule 7. Proposal to allow membership to be extended to the aforementioned employers.

Rule 98. Proposal to extend nominations for election of Officers of the Credit union to outside our common bond.

Questions from the floor:

Why need for rule changes mainly Rule 7?

**JH** New payroll partner in Macclesfield had many tenants living out of common bond. Would only consider local tenants. If they move away, they are still members. We have not yet spoken to them, but they will be part of our marketing strategy.

**JH** to get back to questioner re alleged spelling error.

**Q** Why change Rule 98? - **JH** gave the example of difficulties of a recent director search.

*Resolution 3 Adoption of proposed rulebook changes.*

Proposed by MF. Seconded by EP. Show of hands – Unanimous.

*Resolution 4 Election of Board of Directors*

*Andrew Foster*

Proposed by MF. Seconded by Louise Isherwood -Show of hands. Majority achieved.

*James Gracey*

Proposed by AF. Seconded by MF. Show of hands. Majority achieved.

*Elaine Preece*

Proposed by JH. Seconded by AF. Show of hands. Majority achieved.

Meeting closed 4.30