

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting Dorset Adult Asperger's Support - DAAS Held at The Retreat, Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus On 16th July 2013 at 6.30pm

Present:

Office Holders

Brian Cox – Voluntary Director/Acting Chairman & Treasurer
Diane Waters – Voluntary Director/Company Secretary
Martin Hedley – Voluntary Director

DAAS Members

22 DAAS Members were shown on the Register as in attendance for all or part of the meeting (including the officers)

Items of Business:

1. Welcome & Introduction. Brian Cox chaired the meeting and introduced the Directors present. He thanked the Members for making the effort to attend and appreciated that several people had come from some distance from the west of the county..
2. Apologies had been received from Carole Driver; Sandy Teal; William & Sue Coussell; the Thornton family; Polly Ford; Maureen Oxford and Chris Wakefield.

The following resolutions were put to the meeting.

3. The Minutes of the last AGM held on 15th May 2012 were approved unanimously by those who had attended. The motion was proposed by Sue Prescott and seconded by Stephen Pocock.
4. Annual Report of the Directors. This was presented by Martin Hedley who highlighted some of the key points. The year had been very busy and successful and a great deal had been achieved with very few resources. But there is still a need for help from anyone who can spare even a little time. Just organising meetings in two venues does take time and effort but there has been positive feedback on both speakers and “home grown” events and discussions. The website continues to attract enquiries and we are able to provide support and signposting to help people who contact us. This year also saw the first of two workshops DAAS organised, on Sensory Integration, and this was very well received. The Directors have tried to consult with the members about what DAAS should do and what we should try to achieve. The more help we receive the more that can be done. Our representation on the pan Dorset ASC Partnership Board continues and has strengthened with the participation of two more members, Nigel Harris who will shortly be joined by Tazmin Beedell. We have been assured that our representation does influence policy although progress can be slow. Nigel asked that people be made aware that they could bring issues to him, and to the other reps, that need to be raised at the highest level. A sub-group of the Board will be set up to cover Employment which has been a DAAS theme for this year. During the year we introduced the DAAS Ambassador Scheme and Martin thanked Jason Croasdell who was the first recipient of the badge for his various contributions. Finally Martin looked forward to developing more opportunities for meaningful and creative activities for people with Aspergers, including a gardening project in Weymouth.
Nigel Harris proposed that the Report should be accepted and Julie Williams seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

5. The Treasurer's Report and Statement. Brian Cox introduced these in his role as Treasurer. He thanked everyone who had joined DAAS as a member as this had helped raise £392. We have been very lucky to receive some substantial donations including £593 from Temcare Trust thanks to Roger Browning, former Chief Executive of the local NHS Foundation Trust, as well as donations from Directors and members..The LINKs Community Cash award allowed us to run two workshops to benefit both carers and people with Asperger's. Major expenditure items include 3rd party insurance which currently costs £324 pa and fees for our independent accountant. Printing and stationery amounted to £434. Hire of the Retreat which used to cost £110 pa is now free and we are very grateful to the University for this much appreciated concession. The Dorchester venue costs £100 pa. We are also grateful to the Bournemouth Indoor Bowls Centre for free use of their facilities for the workshops and occasional meetings and the Treasurer offered formal thanks to John O'Donnell for kindly providing this. Finally Brian announced that at the next AGM he would be standing down as Treasurer and Voluntary Director and hoped to recruit a new Treasurer, preferably from the east of the county, where the larger part of the membership lives. The matter of reducing costs of attending meetings was raised by a member, Joe Western, who asked if car sharing could be considered. It was agreed this could be raised later with the group but a previous initiative on these lines had met with no response. Julie Williams proposed that the Report be accepted and this was seconded by Stephen Pocock and agreed unanimously
6. Election of Voluntary Directors & Officers. In accordance with the DAAS Articles of Association, Martin Hedley retired by rotation and Sandy Teal, who had been co-opted during the year, also retired as required by the rules. Both being eligible for re-election agreed to stand again. Sandy's election was proposed by Anna Webb and seconded by Tazmin Beedell. Martin's re-election was proposed by Nigel Harris and seconded by Tazmin Beedell. Both Sandy and Martin were re-elected unanimously. The meeting sent best wishes to Sandy who was absent and had sent apologies as she was recovering from an accident.
7. Appointment of Accountants. The Treasurer recommended that the current accountants, Read Woodruff, Chartered Accountants of 24 Cornwall Road, Dorchester should be re-appointed for the coming year. The Accountants' office is also the DAAS Registered address. Members voted to accept the recommendation.
8. Proposal : that a charge should be made for mailing hard copy documents relating to regular meetings. Several aspects of this were discussed including the fact that no response had been received from attempts previously to contact the individuals concerned, some of whom never attend meetings. There had been no response to requests for stamps or self addressed envelopes to cut costs and our finances are very low. The amended proposal – “that we will send one last notice explaining that in future there will be only one letter per year listing all meeting dates and that anyone wishing to receive printed materials regularly should contact the secretary to agree a charge or collect copies at a meeting” was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.
9. Proposal : that in order to sustain the activities of the company and pursue its aims, a voluntary donation may be requested from people attending regular DAAS meetings, timing to be at the discretion of the Voluntary Directors.. This was also discussed and would only be necessary if satisfactory funds can't be raised elsewhere. The amount and whether or not to donate would be at individual discretion. 20 members voted in favour and 1 against so the proposal was carried.
10. The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and participation.
11. The Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

*Minutes taken by Diane Waters
Company Secretary*