

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting Dorset Adult Asperger's Support - DAAS Held at The Retreat, Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus On 15th May 2012 at 6.30pm

Present:

Office Holders

Brian Cox – Voluntary Director/Acting Chairman & Treasurer

Pat Cave – Voluntary Director/Company Secretary

Carole Driver – Voluntary Director

Martin Hedley – Voluntary Director

Diane Waters – Voluntary Director/Company Secretary

DAAS Members

15 DAAS Members were shown on the Register as in attendance (including the officers)

Items of Business:

1. Welcome & Introduction. Brian Cox chaired the meeting and welcomed the Members and guests. It was much appreciated that some people had travelled from Weymouth and further.
2. Apologies had been received from Bettina Church and Sandy Teal.

The following resolutions were put to the meeting.

3. The Minutes of the last AGM held on 4th April 2011 were approved unanimously by the four Voluntary Directors who had been in attendance. The motion was proposed by Pat Cave and seconded by Martin Hedley. It was noted that the Minutes referred to a change of address for the Company's registered office but this had now been changed again and the new address is included in the Directors' Report.
4. Annual Report of the Directors. This was formally presented to the meeting. Brian Cox explained that he was Acting Chairman, as well as Treasurer, and the role of Chairman is currently vacant. Volunteers for the role were encouraged to put themselves forward. Brian highlighted a few points in the report. The most significant change has been the introduction of a wider formal membership. This will help to give the group a sustainable presence and members were thanked for their participation. Currently 60% of members are carers, 28% are people diagnosed with Asperger's, 7% people un-diagnosed and 7% people who support us in our work (NB figures have been rounded up). The Acting Chairman also thanked Pat Cave who had been DAAS Secretary for several years and was standing down from the Board. Pat had played a significant role in helping DAAS reach its present position and this was much appreciated. He also thanked Diane Waters who has taken over the role of Secretary and travels from Kent every month for the meetings. There were no questions on the Annual Report. Pat Cave proposed the Report be accepted and Stephen Pocock seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.
5. The Treasurer's Report and Statement. Brian Cox introduced these in his role as Treasurer. DAAS had received start-up funding a couple of years ago from the Grassroots Fund and we also received funds from the PCT Dorset NHS Foundation Trust. No further grant funding had

been applied for or received this year. Membership subscriptions and donations are in the region of £350 but the annual Insurance costs £372. So future funding is critical to our continued existence. The position is satisfactory for the coming year but more income will be needed after that or there will be a risk that we may not be able to continue. Volunteers prepared to run fund-raising events would be welcomed. One member volunteered to highlight opportunities to apply for grants. A suggestion was made that meeting attendees could make a small voluntary donation and it was agreed to consider this further. Carole Driver proposed that the Accounts and Report be accepted and Sue Prescott seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Election of Voluntary Directors & Officers. In accordance with the DAAS Articles of Association, Pat Cave retired by rotation but had chosen not to stand for re-election. Carole Driver, who had been co-opted during the year, also retired and being eligible for re-election had agreed to stand again. Carole was re-elected unanimously. The meeting also confirmed the appointment of Diane Waters as Company Secretary.
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 now the Registered address for DAAS. There was some discussion of fees and value for money. Diane Waters proposed that the recommendation should be accepted. The motion was seconded by Martin Hedley and agreed unanimously.
8. Proposal : that a charge should be made for mailing hard copies of programmes and programme reviews to people who do not have access to the internet, which is the normal method of distribution. This proposal had been raised by a DAAS member in view of the recent substantial increase in postal charges. Jason Croasdell explained that there are currently around 2 mailings a month for 20 people, a few of whom also have internet access. Some recipients do attend meetings from time to time but others do not. There was general discussion around the subject. Ideas suggested included: asking people to supply their own stamped addressed envelopes; asking people to supply stamps; asking people at the time of signing up if they are prepared to pay extra to receive mail. Other ideas included increasing the subscription for everybody to cover the cost and inviting people who attend meetings to make a donation (not imposing a charge). Because there was a variety of views put forward no formal resolution was put to the meeting. But it was agreed to consider the suggestions made, including voluntary donations, and to try and obtain further funding to cover overhead administrative costs such as these.
9. Achievements. As a final summary, Martin Hedley highlighted some of the key achievements of the past year which had been set out in the Annual Report. These included: additional support meetings for carers; pilot training workshops; work with the statutory authorities developing the pan Dorset Autistic Spectrum Condition Strategy and participating in the new Partnership Board; building the information, advice and guidance support provided to individuals; and awareness training for statutory agencies for frontline staff in parts of the NHS. These initiatives have been achieved despite very limited resources and DAAS would welcome practical support from others who wish to become involved. The meeting gave a round of applause for the achievements.
10. The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and participation.
11. The Meeting closed at 7.00pm.

*Minutes taken by Diane Waters
Company Secretary*

