



SOUTH WEST DORSET TALKING NEWSPAPER

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the Safety Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth. 2:30pm Thursday 18th May 2017

Welcome to our Guests:

Ann Sawtell, the Chairman, welcomed everyone to this year's Annual General Meeting and, in particular, extended a warm welcome to our honoured guests; The Mayor of Weymouth & Portland, Councillor Richard Kosior, the Mayoress Ms Caroline Churchill, Bev Jones Dorset Blind Association and Jenny Clifft Weymouth & Portland Blind Club

Apologies: Apologies were received from 20 members.

Minutes of the Previous A.G.M. 19th May 2016 were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and proposed by Ann Beeston, seconded by Derek Sawtell and accepted by the meeting.. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report: Ann Sawtell, our Chairlady, gave the following report.

Welcome again Ladies and Gentlemen and a special thanks to the Mayor of Weymouth and Portland Richard Kosior and Mayoress Ms Caroline Churchill, who are here on their last official engagement before handing over their chains of office tonight to the next Mayor and Mayoress. The Mayor has been very supportive of our Talking Newspaper this year.

After the changes of last year everything seems to be running fairly smoothly this year. Our 'Listener' numbers are remaining stable and we don't seem to have had any disasters, at least not yet.

The 'Listeners' seem to be managing well with playing the memory sticks on the players we supply although it costs a lot to keep supplying them.

We have had a few volunteers who had to leave us, Isabel Walton who was with us for a long time as a co-ordinator, reader and magazine presenter, Frank Symonds who was a great recording technician and Annie Smith who helped with the copying. They have all been missed and we thank them for all their years of volunteering. Two former volunteers who died this year were Peter Burrige and recently Betty Wycliffe Jones who was a long time reader. We have been very lucky to get some new volunteers who have settled in well and along with all the volunteers are much appreciated.

We have some fund raising later this year, a collection at Morrison's on August 12th and at Asda on August 19th. We are also expecting to help with the Carnival again which this year falls on August 16th. Although we have had nothing back from the organisers yet. It is unfortunate they are all on the same week but we had very little control over that. If you are able to help with any of these, can you please let Keith know afterwards the meeting.

Last September, my husband Derek and I went to the Talking News Federation Conference in Bristol. We found it very informative and some of the speakers were very interesting especially Mike Brace CBE, whose talk you may have heard after your news recording one week. It was interesting to see how the staff adapted to having guests with visual problems and a large numbers of guide dogs.

Later this year we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the formation of our Talking Newspaper, the first edition actually being produced the following spring.

I think that's all, after the meeting I hope you will stay for light refreshments, followed by Selwyn Williams who is going to tell us about some interesting local history.

I will finish by quoting part of a letter we received a couple of weeks ago from a couple who are listeners 'Thank you very much for the efforts put in the news items, anecdotes, poetry reading and music. They bring a sparkle to our dull world.'

That makes what we do worthwhile.

Ann Sawtell

Treasurer's Report: Steve Rook, our Treasurer, gave the following report.
REPORT ON 2016 - 17 ACCOUNTS TO AGM 18 MAY 2017

Here is my report on the accounts of the South West Dorset Talking Newspaper for the year ending 30th April 2017. Hopefully you all have a copy of the accounts in front of you, which also shows for comparison purposes the 2015-16 figures.

Now I'd like to start by taking you briefly through the **Income and Expenditure account** starting with the income received during the year.

Income – Donations £1045.88 As always we are grateful for the many kind donations we have received and I've listed the larger sums we have received –

Mrs D Gardiner in celebration of her 90 th birthday	£305.38
Mr D Wheeler	£200
Weymouth & Portland Lions Club	£200
The Mayor's Christmas Fund	£100

We also received contributions from many other generous individuals and organisations totalling £240.50 - around 15 in all, including some from talks given about us by Eleanor Smith and Dave Beeston

A big thank you to all of those who have contributed

You will see that we received about £1500 less this year. We are very dependent on donations we receive.

Fund Raising £480.81

This figure is made up of £175.99 raised by a collection at Sainsburys, £156.52 at the Sea front stall and £148.30 at Morrisons. Not only do these events bring in money but they also raise awareness of who we are and what we do.

The "100" Club raised £1070 and you'll see on the opposite side we paid out £750 in prizes which makes a net contribution of £320 to our funds. As usual thank you to all those who have supported these fund raising ventures.

Finally we have received **Interest of £33.29 on our Deposit Account** with Santander. We do not receive a great rate of interest and neither do any of us. However with having it all in one place it is very easy to transfer funds when required.

Our total income therefore is £2629.98 down by about £1600 from last year.

Now let's look at our Expenditure

For the **Rent** of our new offices at the Moose Lodge in Chickerell Road, Weymouth we paid the annual rent of **£1000**. Last year there was an overlap in payments to the Council for our old premises in Portland, hence the higher amount paid last year.

We've spent a total of **£2159.65 on equipment** this year – an decrease of about **£600** from last year. The major purchases this year have been for a second memory stick duplicator costing £942 (and we received a contribution towards that from the donations mentioned earlier from the Lions and the Mayors Fund). We also bought some more USB players costing £330 for those of our listeners who don't have a computer that they can use them to listen to our weekly memory stick and we had to buy some more memory sticks and wallets.

Two members of the Committee (Ann and Derek) attended the Talking News Federation **Conference at a cost of £400.72**

Insurance came in at £188.41

Printing and postages etc. of £400.72 and the office phone, answer machine and broadband cost £445.06

The "100 Club" prizes - £750 I referred to earlier

Total expenditure was therefore £5345.84 (down by £400 on last year)

Overall we spent £2715.86 more than we received in income compared to £1497 last year. We received £1600 less income but spent £400 less so that identifies the overall £1200 extra that we "lost" this year.

So if we turn over and look at the Balance Sheet you'll see how our overall finances look.

Our **Assets** are made up of

Cash at the Santander Building Society Current account of	£1409.30
Santander Deposit Account	£8033.29
Giving us total cash reserves of	£9442.59

As I have said in previous years we are in a reasonably healthy financial position. Our overall annual deficit or surplus is very dependent upon the level of donations we receive and what we need to spend to replace aging or broken

equipment so that we can continue to provide and develop our service to listeners. I expect that next year we will not have anything like the deficit of 2016-17 as our equipment is up to date and we hope to generate more income. We do continue to keep good control over our finances and I'd like to thank Ann Sawtell and the Committee for the support they have given me over the past year as your Treasurer.

Finally you will have noticed that the accounts have been audited and found correct by Vic Patterson. Vic has audited our accounts for well over 20 years and he has decided to retire due to health concerns so I wanted to pay tribute to him for his valuable contribution to the SWDTN over the years. If you have any queries on the accounts I'll try to answer them. Otherwise I submit the accounts for the year ending 30 April 2017 to you for approval.

Steve Rook, Treasurer 18th May 2017

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Cathrin Dunford, seconded by John Jenkins and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Publicity Officer's Report: In Eleanor's absence her report was read out by the Secretary.

Publicity is always important to the Talking Newspaper, firstly to encourage new listeners to use our service, which is always free, and secondly to enlist the help of new volunteers. This year we needed some new Technicians, and word of mouth, and publicity has helped us to encourage some people to come forward. We still need more, and no doubt future publicity will help us.

We have had several articles in the *Echo*, and the *View From*, for which we are always very grateful. The Lion's Club donation resulted in a very good picture in the press and also our visit from the mayor and the subsequent donation. Dave Beeston has been busy giving talks to various organisations, one in May at St Aldhems Church, one in June, one in December at Dorchester Library, and one in February at Wellworthy Social Club, he has another talk planned at the Walnut Grove in Dorchester on the 25th May. These talks often result in new listeners and volunteers, as well as informing people in more depth about the Talking Newspaper. It is a great boost to letting people know we are out there, and we are grateful to Dave for doing these. If you know any organizations who would like a talk, or to know more, please get in touch with us. We have also achieved some coverage on local radio.

We have been improving our social media profile, and Mike, our Website Manager, has put our video on *You Tube*. We would like to have a new video made, but so far have not found anyone to do this for us. Because our *Facebook* page has been more proactive, we have had several people contact us through this. One of the contacts was Simon and Tracey West from the publishing company Magic Oxygen, who told us about the late Trish Vickers and the book she had written. We are very touched by her gesture to donate to us.

We continue to attend events, and distribute our leaflets widely, and also inform doctor's surgeries, care homes, and any other agency that may help us to inform new listeners.

Eleanor Smith

Election of Ordinary Members to the Committee:

Ann Sawtell announced that the existing committee members were all willing to stand for re-election.

Ann Sawtell, *Chair*, Keith Eagleton, *Secretary*, Steve Rook, *Treasurer*, Eleanor Smith, *Publicity*, David Beeston, Ann Beeston, Cathrin Dunford, Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Derek Sawtell.

Their election, *en bloc*, was proposed by Richard Rant, seconded by Mary Yeoman and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Any Other Business:

Richard Kosior addressed the meeting. He said that it was uncanny that two years ago coming to our AGM then was the very first official engagement he attended, then as Deputy Mayor, and today was his last official engagement as Mayor before handing over the chain of office later that evening. He had found the visit to our studio very interesting and he had never before been asked to record for the radio. Learning about our organisation had been new and interesting and he had found it an honour.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for light refreshments. At the same time Selwyn Williams gave a very interesting illustrated talk on piracy during the reign of Q. Elizabeth 1st both in and around Weymouth, and in particular shipwrecks on Chesil Beach, most particularly a vessel called The Gold Grape