



## **SOUTH WEST DORSET TALKING NEWSPAPER**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**held at the Safety Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth. 2:30pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

#### **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 Kevin Brooks, the Mayoress Mrs Ann Brooks and Jenny Clift Weymouth & Portland Blind Club

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from 20 members.

**Minutes of the Previous A.G.M. 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017** were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and proposed by Ann Beeston, seconded by Cathrin Dunford and accepted by the meeting.. There were no matters arising.

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

I would like to thank Councillor Kevin Brooks and his wife for making this the last duty of their year before handing over to Councillor Gill Taylor tonight. We are grateful for the support they have given us during their year in office

The biggest news of the year was our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it was really nice to see so many past and present volunteers there. I hope you all enjoyed catching up with each other. It also created positive publicity which is always a good thing.

We have had no big changes over the year, I don't know if there will ever be an update from memory sticks even though technology changes so fast. We have had to replace and repair quite a lot of equipment this year - hopefully we are all sorted now and will not be spending so much next year. The listener numbers remain about the same although they are changing all the time

We had quite a shock when Steve Rook suddenly and sadly passed away. He has been greatly missed but luck was on our side when Richard Marshall volunteered to become treasurer. He is doing a good job and we hope that he will be happy within the Organisation.

Mollie Burt also died recently at the age of 98. A lot of the newer members will not know her but she was one of the people who started SWDTN. She was in the Chair for a period, did news reading, editing and magazine presenting. Whilst she was on the Committee it was our policy for some Committee members to listen to the tapes (as it was then) and she used to tell the story of the postman delivering her tape and then she passed him driving her car up the road – he did a double take.

For the first time for many years, we have decided not to send a team of volunteers to the carnival this year. The main reason we did this was because they gave us a donation to help our funds. We volunteered with the Dorset Access Group and shared the long hours with them. However in latter years it has become more difficult for both groups to man the stall and as neither group have had a donation for two years we think we shall opt out this season. Any money raised this year is going to the Air Ambulance which is a very worthy cause so if anybody wishes to help on a personal basis then I am sure the carnival committee will welcome you.

On July the first the Omega Project Band is playing to raise funds for us at the Greenhill Gardens Weymouth. We will be needing volunteers to go round with collecting tins and would like you to spread the word among your friends and acquaintances gathering as much support as we can for what promises to be a good afternoon.

A lot of readers would like to read more than they do so we have decided to have a trial period of not taking on a new reading volunteers. Anyone who wishes to will be put on two teams and we also have a list of people who are available to read anytime. If you wish to do either or both, could you please let me or Cathrin know.

Before I finish I would just like to thank the Committee and volunteers for all their help and support during the past year.

I think that's all for now. Thank you for coming and after the business is finished there will be refreshments and a chance for a chat - one of our volunteers Robert Smith is going to entertain us at the piano - thank you Robert.

*Ann Sawtell*

### **Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

My name is Richard Marshall and I took over as Treasurer in January 2018. I am a qualified accountant and retired in 2014 after 40 years of accountancy work. Currently I am Treasurer to another 3 charities which is interesting.

Steve Rook, the previous Treasurer, sadly died in August last year and Dave Beeston stepped into the breach until I took over in January this year.

It is a tribute to both Steve Rook and to Dave Beeston that the record keeping has been to a high standard. So what could have a hard act to follow has been straight forward.

Here is my report on the accounts for the South West Dorset Talking Newspaper charity for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018. You should have a copy of the accounts (copy held with the permanent record file) which also shows the comparison with the previous year. The accounts have been checked and signed off as accurate by an independent qualified accountant.

There are two parts to the accounts. So if we look at the Income and Expenditure account first of all. The income has increased substantially from £2,630 in 2016-17 to £4,236 in 2017-18. This is principally due to increased donations. We are very grateful for all the donations we have received and that is due to a lot of hard work by the members of the committee.

Expenditure has reduced from £5,346 in 2016-17 to £4,694 in 2017-18 as less has been spent on replacing equipment.

**The result is that the deficit in the year has decreased from £2,716 in 2016-17 to £458 in 2017-18.**

The second part of the accounts is the Balance Sheet. **This shows that the bank balance has reduced from £9,442 on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 to £8,985 on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

The Charity has a healthy bank balance and has good financial procedures and record keeping in place. We depend particularly on donations for our survival. On the expenditure side the major costs are for the purchase and repair of equipment which vary year on year.

If you have any questions I will try and answer them. Otherwise I submit the accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to you for approval.

*Richard Marshall* 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Derek Sawtell, seconded by Sue Vernon and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

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

With our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebration in March we had a great opportunity to promote our charity, by inviting the Echo to our tea. We had some good coverage there, and also on Solent radio I had to give an interview which was broadcast every hour. Unfortunately I was shopping at the time, and ended up with them recording both me and the lorries reversing behind me, but I think they cut that bit out!!

Cathrin also spoke on Radio Solent on one of their "Guest Slots".

As ever we are always very grateful to the BBC for supporting us.

It is hard for us to reach new listeners, and often they come via word of mouth which is why publicity is so important. An Echo article, or a mention on the radio informs so many people of our free service. We also have a Facebook page which has proved very useful and receives a good number of "searches", and we put photos of events and information on the way the production team works on there too.

We distribute our leaflets to Doctors surgeries, to Care Homes, and try to make our presence known in small articles in various local magazines as well.

Where we can we go along to accept donations and say a few words about the Newspaper. Cathrin went to the Rotary Club who were very generous, and Dave attended the 'Goldmine Dining Club' to talk and

receive a donation. Ann and I visited Swannery Court, where they had kindly raised funds for us. It gives us a chance to tell more people about the work that our Charity does, and to raise awareness. We also attended a Community Lunch, where we met other charities who work in the same area as us.

We are very grateful for the support we have received from the current Mayor and also previous Mayors which has helped raise our profile locally.

As mentioned above the Echo covered our 30th celebration but they had also published another article for us when we were looking for more volunteers. We also have an article pending in the Dorset Life magazine.

The best publicity of all is word of mouth, so whenever you happen to meet new people don't forget to tell them all about us, just in case they know somebody who may want to receive the newspaper, or who may wish to volunteer with us.

*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*, Richard Marshall, *Treasurer*, Eleanor Smith, *Publicity*, David Beeston, Ann Beeston, Cathrin Dunford, Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Derek Sawtell.

Their election, *en bloc*, was proposed by Jenny Ash, seconded by Robert Smith and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

#### **Any Other Business:**

The Mayor, Cclr. Kevin Brooks said that he was very pleased to be with us and this was his last official duty before handing over to his successor later that evening – Cclr. Gill Taylor. He said that he had enjoyed his term of office, and in particular attending functions of the smaller organisations in the Borough such as SWDTN. He was particularly aware that having his photo taken at these events was helpful in gaining publicity, and he was very happy to help in this respect. (The Dorset Echo had taken a photograph of our event before the start of the AGM). He enjoyed attending our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and had been impressed with the technology we use. He said that the Talking Newspaper has a “good brand”.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for light refreshments. At the same time Robert Smith entertained us with music and song.