



SOUTH WEST DORSET TALKING NEWSPAPER

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the Safety Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth. 2:30pm Thursday 23rd May 2019

Welcome to our Guests:

Ann Sawtell, the Chairman welcomed 17 members to this year's Annual General Meeting.

Apologies: Apologies were received from 16 members.

Minutes of the Previous A.G.M. 17th May 2018 were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and proposed by Ann Beeston, seconded by Liz Bartlett and accepted by the meeting. There were no matters arising.

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

Good Afternoon again.

The event at Greenhill last July with the Omega Project band was very successful although we would have liked a few more people there, unfortunately weather is a factor. Perhaps you can pass the word around, so we can have more people there this year on July 21st when they are very kindly playing for us again. We will need helpers for this and we also would like to do a raffle so any prizes would be gratefully received. We will also need helpers for a collection at Sainsbury's on July 6th, at Morrison's on August 17th and for the sea front stall on August 23rd. Robert Smith has very kindly offered to store donations until then if you have anything contact a committee member or leave it at the studio,. Keith has kindly said he will do the rotas, so if you are available, please let him know. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising, please let us know, as the players we let the listeners lend are now £45 each, which is almost twice as much as they were when we first loaned them out.

Earlier this month we were able to congratulate Avril Larsson, one of our magazine presenters, who celebrated her 90th birthday.

We were very lucky to get Richard to be our treasurer when the vacancy arose, unfortunately he is no longer able to continue, as he has moved away, although was able to be here for today's meeting. We would like to thank him for all the work he has done and welcome Michael, who we are fortunate to get as our new treasurer.

Unfortunately, Eleanor is having to give up the post of publicity as she will be away a lot. If you or you know of anyone who might be interested in taking over, could you please tell us. I can give details of what it involves and Eleanor will help all she can. We would like to thank her for all the hard work she has done.

Thank you to all our volunteers for the hard work they do and as always we are desperate for people to record and help on Wednesday mornings.

After the AGM business we have refreshments, followed by a talk by John Stockley, usually known as Sooty. During the refreshments Raffle tickets will be available from Derek at £1 a strip.

That's all for now, let's get on with the rest of the meeting.

Ann Sawtell

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30th April 2018

The audited accounts for the year were distributed prior to the start of the meeting so that everyone had a copy. A copy is retained in the Charity's permanent file.

Richard presented the accounts, detailing the various sources of income and the items of expenditure. Owing to a decrease in donations and collections during the past year our charity had an excess of expenditure over income of £986.38, leaving us with a reduced balance of £7998.63 in our bank accounts.

Whilst this is still a 'healthy' amount we need to increase our income this year to eliminate an annual deficit.

Richard Marshall

The Treasurer's report and the accounts were 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 in all ways, and secondly to enlist the help of new volunteers. This year we needed a new treasurer, as Richard was moving, and word of mouth, and publicity has helped us to achieve this and we were very grateful for the Echo and also Radio Solent in helping us to get the word out.

We have had several articles in the Echo, for which we are always very grateful. Talks to interested groups have been given by Dave Beeston and Liz Bartlett. 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 and Liz for doing these. If you know of any organizations who would like a talk, or to know more, please get in touch with us.

Our Facebook page continues to let people see what is happening and get in touch with us, and is a useful tool in our publicity portfolio.

I have been to visit various blind groups, including Shaftesbury, and have a visit to Bridport blind group arranged for the near future.

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

As many of you will know, this is my last year as Publicity Officer and I look forward to meeting our new volunteer and helping them in any way which I can.

Eleanor Smith

Election of Ordinary Members to the Committee:

Ann Sawtell announced that the following committee members were all willing to stand for election.

Ann Sawtell, *Chair*, Keith Eagleton, *Secretary*, Michael Garrett, *Treasurer*, David Beeston, Ann Beeston, Cathrin Dunford, Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Derek Sawtell.

Their election, *en bloc*, was proposed by Jo Marshall, seconded by Liz Bartlett and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

The position of Publicity Officer currently needs a volunteer.

Amendments to the Constitution:

Keith explained that a review of our constitution showed that it needed amendment. The amendments basically updated terminology i.e. replacing the wording of tapes and CDs with 'recorded media' and the Post Office with 'Royal Mail'. We also deleted an unnecessary clause which previously empowered the Trustees to purchase property. Banking details were updated. A copy of the amended document had been sent to all volunteers with the AGM Notice and the meeting was asked to confirm the acceptance of the new and amended document. Acceptance was proposed by Derek Sawtell, seconded by Cathrin Dunford, and unanimously accepted by everyone present at the meeting.

A copy of the new document is held in the Charity's permanent file.

Any Other Business:

Bill Hopkins suggested that we should investigate whether we could produce a 'car sticker' for volunteers to display in their vehicles to publicise the T.N. we will investigate the feasibility of this good idea.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for light refreshments. At the same time John Stockley gave us an interesting talk on his experiences as a young person growing up in Weymouth.