



SOUTH WEST DORSET TALKING NEWSPAPER

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in Radipole Park Drive Gardens, Weymouth. 2:30pm Wednesday 5th August 2020

Due to the Covid19 Pandemic which started in the U.K. in February/March 2020 our AGM was held later in the year than usual because of Government/Covid19 restrictions on movement and gatherings. It was held in the open air with 2m. Social Distancing rules observed.

Welcome: Ann Sawtell, the Chairman, welcomed 12 members to this year's Annual General Meeting.

Apologies: Apologies were received from 9 members.

Minutes of the Previous A.G.M. 23rd May 2019 were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and proposed by Dave Beeston, seconded by Cathrin Dunford and accepted by the meeting. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report:

(This report had been previously circulated to all to overcome the necessity of having to read it out in the open air)

“Welcome to our belated and unusual Annual General Meeting. I am glad you are able to be here as we need to have someone to vote.

Until lockdown we were having a good year. We were maintaining our listener numbers and fund raising, as you will be hearing from Michael, were going well. Thanks to Keith who worked hard getting dates for supermarkets collections and also the seafront stall and the music at Greenhill gardens which went very well last year but unfortunately could not take place this year. These are all good publicity for us. Thank you also to those who collected at any of these events.

We had a few publicity events. Eleanor and I attended a Fair at St Aldhelm's Hall which was attended by several organisations that support the blind. Judy Pride from Macular Society was there and gave us a list of their support group meetings to which we added the Blind Club meetings which we were putting on the magazine regularly. We gained a few readers from this fair. Eleanor also interviewed Judy Pride for the magazine.

The Mayor came to visit the studio; Eleanor took some photos of the visit which were printed in the Echo with a good write up.

Asda chose us for their token scheme. A photo was taken of the cheque presentation at Asda. It was displayed at Asda but unfortunately the Echo didn't print it.

The Weymouth Macular Society asked for a talk at their meeting in June. Eleanor did this on zoom which went well and from which, we obtained some new listeners.

We were very sorry to hear about volunteers who died. Sue Darler, who was one of our founder members, Ros Hunt, who was a reader and magazine presenter, almost from the beginning, Joyce Otter, who was a reader for many years until she became a listener, Susan Gow, who had not been with us for long but was an enthusiastic reader and magazine presenter and most recently Dennis Dunford, who organised the magazine and supported Cathrin. They will all be missed.

Ann Beeston has decided to step down from the committee and I would like to thank her and all the committee for the work they do and I would also like to thank all you volunteers, where would we be without you?

We are looking for more committee members and a publicity officer if anyone is interested please contact me.

We are planning to resume recording next week. We have done all we can to make the studio safe. We are reorganising so we never have more than three people in the studio at the same time.

I think that's all and thank you again for coming today."

Ann Sawtell

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30th April 2020

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

Michael briefly detailed the various sources of funding and expenditure. Due to some generous donations and good results from fund-raising/collections our funds increased this year by £1368 giving a year-end bank balance of £9366

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Derek Sawtell, seconded by Liz Bartlett and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

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, Cathrin Dunford, Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Derek Sawtell.

Their election, *en bloc*, was proposed by Eleanor Smith, seconded by Ann Beeston and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Any Other Business:

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.