

BIRMINGHAM TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED c i o

This first **Annual General Meeting** was run via Zoom at 2.30pm on Thursday 25 March 2021. The Board had previously agreed that the meeting would be chaired by Vice-Chairman North David Gowdy (DG) and that the business session would be recorded.

The use of Zoom had been rehearsed some weeks earlier and the meeting itself was open from 2pm to allow people to settle and get used to the technology.

Attendance:

Ian Alexander	Lizzy Hunting
Jeremy Bouckley	Alan Johnson
Paul Bryce	Jennifer Jones
Margaret Chadwick	Ajai Kapur
Tony Cocks	Ann Meadows
Danny Collman	Wendy Pepper
Kathryn (Kath) Collman	Beth Prescott
Marion Dance	Elaine Reid
Kath Dawe	Brian Sansom
Julie Douglas	Stephanie Sergeant
Christina English	Janet Sherwell
Dot Frisby	David Whyte
Rob Halley	David Widney
Susan Haseler	Zetta Widney
David Hope	
Paul Hooper	

Apologies: Tim Badger; Helen Clare; Tonia Green; Vidar Hjordeng

The meeting is quorate with more than 5 members present.

DG welcomed members to the meeting. A brief check confirmed that the electronic hand-raising option in Zoom was not fully understood, so voting would be by visible on-screen hand movements.

DG explained that this meeting would have been held in July 2020 but had been delayed by COVID 19. At this first meeting the founding "appointed" trustees were required to retire and be replaced by elected trustees.

The several reports to be adopted by the meeting had been circulated to members on the required timescales. The meeting agreed that the Annual Report could be adopted as circulated. It further agreed that the set of finance reports could be accepted. DG explained that the new treasurer when appointed would review the accounts with auditor support as required.

Ms Sergeant asked if some of the £45000 available in the bank could be used to improve or simplify the TN workflow. DG pointed out that the equipment in use was modern but perhaps some training might help.

DG then presented the Organisation paper and explained that no specific change was being recommended but that the new Board would have flexibility to adapt the structure in the light of their thinking. The existing Board had found this necessary, mostly involving doubling up of roles because not enough trustees were available.

Attention then turned to the election of new trustees. The previously-listed individuals were invited to introduce themselves to the meeting. DG then invited the meeting to elect the nine individuals en-bloc: WIDNEY, David; JOHNSON, Alan; HUNTING, Lizzie; HALLEY, Rob; GOWDY, David; COLLMAN, Kathryn; COLLMAN, Danny; BRYCE, Paul; BADGER, Tim.

The meeting accepted this proposal with no dissensions.

This concluded the business of the AGM

The subsequent informal discussion raised the topic of returning to studio working and the policy in respect of volunteer vaccination. There was clearly concern around these topics, but in practice we would still need to adopt the COVID-secure working practices that South had implemented in Alan Geale House. In South Parade the small rooms would mean no more than 4 people in a room rather than the usual 6+.. It was likely that at-home recording would continue as an option even after studio working was resumed. This led to a brief discussion about providing at-home recording kit to standardise the approach.

The zoom meeting then ended.