

## **BOLTON ASPERGER SUPPORT**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 at Thicketford Care and Community Centre**

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to all present, particularly Mrs Roselle Gorman who was attending for the first time. There were 10 members in attendance. Apologies were received from Martin and Julie Farrar. Members introduced themselves in turn to Roselle.

#### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record.

#### **3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising save for those that were to be dealt with on this agenda.

#### **4. Feedback from the BPCC showcase event at BCOM**

The Chairman informed members that BAAS had been invited to the above recent event and had been represented by himself and Eira Heywood. He reported the event had been very successful and had been a very useful platform in enabling the group to promote itself to a new and wider audience.

#### **5. Feedback from the Autism Strategy Partnership meeting and Sub group.**

The Chairman informed the group that the meeting of the partnership group scheduled for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April had been postponed and was now to be held in Mid May. He reported however, on a successful sub group comprising himself, Steph' Sherratt, Mari Saeki and two members of ABAG that had taken place at the home of SS. At This meeting the purpose and progress of the partnership meetings had been outlined to the ABAG members and during general discussion of challenges facing those on the Autism Spectrum, the desirability of a 'welcome' pack had been discussed. It had been decided to progress this idea and agreed that the pack would be launched at the upcoming BAAS seminar on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

## **6. Comic Relief Grant**

The Chairman reported the successful outcome of a recent application for core funding to Comic Relief. A cheque for £1000.00 would be deposited into BAAS's bank account in the near future.

## **7. Report of the Treasurer on end of project' report to Bolton CVS**

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman informed the group of the current position regarding the financial return to the Bolton CVS.

In total, the group had received £1500.00 from Bolton CVS. The first instalment of the grant and its expenditure had been included in the Treasurer's report to the AGM last November. The second and final payment, received in December 2014 had been expended on a number of items related to running the group and which included, administrative costs, stationery, purchase of a computer, a new printer and respite trip for members. The closing balance of the account at the AGM was £4,072.48

Payments since December totalled £721.98 giving a closing balance of £4100.50. The balance of £28.02 had been allowed to be carried forward to be used by the group during the forthcoming months. The bank balance thus now standing at £ 5100.50 (including £1000.00 Comic relief grant).

## **8. Task and Finish group**

The Chairman outlined his proposal for a Task and Finish group in order to enable more members to be involved in the group's development and to help meet the growing opportunity for widening the group's influence within the Borough. He invited members to put themselves forward for the task group and the following members were agreed: Helen Green, Eira Heywood, Tony Shaw, David Higson, Barbara Brooks and Roselle Gorman; to which list James Morris was added, he already having indicated his desire to be a member of the Task and Finish sub group.

## **9. Proposed 'Buddy' service for Adults on the Autism Spectrum**

The Chairman outlined his proposals for a 'Buddy' service that would be organised along lines of Befriending Services already running within the town. It was agreed that this service, based upon the recruitment and training of volunteers would be a useful service and in accordance with the group's objects. The details of the scheme will be addressed by the Task and Finish sub group.

### **10. Choices and Solutions seminar July 2015**

The Chairman outlined proposals for an important seminar for parents and carers to be held at The Bridge Community Church in Bolton on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

He informed the group that this event would help satisfy the requirements of the local authority in regard to the carers grant received in 2014. He indicated that the seminar for which some speakers had already been secured would comprise a marketplace of up to 20 stalls, 4 workshops and a total of 4 speakers, 2 of whom will be of national repute and who were known nationally for their excellence in promoting the needs of those people on the Autism Spectrum. Following his presentation, aided by a spider diagram, members expressed their enthusiasm for and support of the proposals. The event would be free to participants and delegates and would include lunch and beverages. It was agreed the Task and Finish sub group would meet at an early date to progress the proposals. A date of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> at 6.45 pm at the Toby Carvery on Crompton Way was agreed for the sub group's first meeting.

### **11. Any other relevant business**

The Chairman reported the completion and submission of an application to the Charity Commission. A result was now awaited. He further informed members that the new constitution and new safeguarding policy document were now on the website and had been included as part of the application to the CC. He thanked Tony Shaw for his excellent and timely ongoing support in keeping the website up to date.

### **12. Dates and times of next meetings in May**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm at Thicketford Care Centre: Drop in Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>