

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of November 2019

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed members to the Annual general meeting. There were 8 members in attendance, namely Chairman, Roselle Gorman, Charlotte Horrocks, Gerrie Melling, Elaine Birch, Barbara Brooks, Chris Bywater and Maryam Fatta.

Apologies were received from Alison Thomson, Eira Heywood, Yvonne Poulson and Lisa Griffiths Wood.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2019 were reviewed and accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters arising from the above minutes

There were no items that were not to be discussed as per agenda for this meeting.

4. Ratification of the minutes of the August meeting

The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed and agreed by those who were present in August meeting.

5. Election of the Executive Committee members for the ensuing year

Chairman: There being no other nominations, Graham Heywood was re-elected for the 2019-2020 year.

Secretary: There being no other nominations, Barbara Brooks was elected for the year 2019-2020 year.

Vice-Chair: There were no nominations for this post and therefore the position remains vacant.

Treasurer: Charlotte Horrocks was nominated to continue as Hon' Treasurer and having agreed to continue Charlotte was duly elected.

6. Election of Non - Executive Members for the ensuing year.

Safeguarding Officer: Eira Heywood had agreed to continue as Safeguarding Officer and was therefore duly elected.

Elaine Birch and Gerrie Melling agreed to continue as non -executive officers for the ensuing year and both were duly elected.

Maryam Fatta expressed her willingness to stand as non- executive officer and was duly elected. The Chairman thanked Maryam for her willingness to serve for the ensuing financial year. There remains one further vacancy for a non-executive officer for the ensuing year.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman introduced his report for the previous twelve month period , drawing attention particularly to the success of the Befriending Plus service and in particular the support of the Thursday evening social and life-skills activities; the difficulties regarding the Carers' trips; ongoing challenge of securing grant monies and the nomination of BAAS for the Queen's Award for Voluntary service. Regarding the latter, the Chairman thanked Rachel Nelmes, our Befriending Plus Coordinator for the excellent contribution to the Befriending Plus service that she had made over the past 12 months. He referred to the ongoing assessment by the Deputy Lord Lieutenants' and about which he thanked those members who had contributed their experiences as part of the assessment process. The final outcome would not be known until June but the Chairman said he was cautiously optimistic.

8. Secretary's Report

Barbara Brooks spoke to her report detailing a review of the past twelve months. In her review she echoed the sentiments expressed by the Chairman regarding the Befriending Plus service and particularly the social activities evenings that brought the Service to life. She expressed delight at the number of families that had so far supported the activity evenings and felt sure that the evenings would continue to be supported in even greater numbers, especially once the cookery course commenced Barbara shared the Chairman's disappointment at the relative lack of trips during the past year due to a number of factors that had already been highlighted by the Chairman. She reminded members that grants for Carers trips would not be ring fenced during 2020 but hoped that the Chairman would be able to secure funding from the general funds made available by Bolton Council.

9. Annual accounts for 2018-2019

Charlotte Horrocks, Treasurer introduced this item and expressed the view that the accounts showed an active year of progress for BAAS. She drew attention in particular to an overstatement of £240.00 from the previous year's accounts that had been reflected in the amended accounts for the year now under consideration. There had been many more

payments than in previous years and in so far as the accounts for this year were concerned. She pointed out that the grant for the Befriending service was not yet totally paid, with a further £7360 or thereabouts yet to be paid. This would be the final payment for the Befriending Plus service from the CVS and the Chairman confirmed that a further application to the Postcode Community Trust would be submitted during February 2020.

After further explanation and discussion/questions from members the accounts as now presented were accepted. Members thanked Charlotte for her expert and diligent compilation of the accounts. In turn Charlotte thanked the Chairman for his invaluable assistance over two full Saturday afternoon's work in September/October.

10. Carers Trip to the Place Theatre 3rd February 2020

The Chairman confirmed the trip to the Palace Theatre to see the 'We will Rock You' show, based upon the music of Queen. Tickets would be priced at £25.00 each including transport to and from Manchester. The Chairman urged members to reserve their tickets as soon as possible as he expected a great deal of interest in the show.

11. Befriending Service Update (including QAVS).

As much of this item had been previously discussed the Chairman said he was optimistic of a positive outcome, particularly as the assessment had been quite challenging but fruitful.

12. BAAS Meal at the Olympus Restaurant Monday 9th December.

The Chairman confirmed the arrangements for the lunch at the Olympus. Members to arrive by 1:30pm.

13. Format for future meetings

The Chairman proposed to members that future meetings (starting in March on a bi monthly basis) take the format of a Drop-in session from 2:00-4:00pm rather than be a business type of meeting. He explained that he felt this would be worth trying because the open forum element of agendas was often not given sufficient time due to the amount of business to discuss. Additionally, the Thursday evening sessions engaged parents and carers and the 'private' element of the evenings had so far not been fully utilised. After much discussion it was agreed that we trial the changes as outlined by the Chairman and review the situation in a couple of months.

14. AOB/ Next meeting

There were no other items for discussion. The next meeting would be 26th February 2020.