

**Vision Support Harrogate District
97th Annual General Meeting
at the Vision Support Centre
Friday 9th November at 2-00pm**

Minutes

1. Welcome:

The Chairman, Eric Mitchell, welcomed members and said a few words in memory of those who had died during the year, including Alice Morris, Roy Rodriguez, Betty Grimes, Audrey Brown, Charlotte Sykes and Mick Walsh and invited those present to stand for a few moments silence.

2. Prayers:

Michael Wearing lead the meeting in prayer.

3. Apologises:

Received from John Sowdon, Pauline Nolan, Sarah Dodds, Marion Green and Mary Kirk.

4. Minutes of the AGM held on 3rd November 2017:

Having been circulated these were taken as read.

5. Matters arising:

None

6. Chairmans Remarks:

In 2016 we changed the name to Vision Support Harrogate District to reflect the inclusiveness of the work we do for all who are visually impaired. There are signs that this is encouraging new members.

The activities of the Centre and the charity as a whole continue to grow and flourish under the boundless energy of our Director of Services, Tanya Stimpson, and her team. Thank you to them.

EM also recognise and give thanks for the invaluable contribution of our volunteers who give so freely of their time. The number of our volunteers is diminishing so some effort needs to be put into this area if we are to continue the much needed and much appreciated services we provide to the visually impaired in the District.

7. Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2018:

Robert Horner presented the Financial Statements and indicated that, in line with recent previous years, expenditure of £116,953 was a little higher than income of £83,587 but the deficit of £33,366 was less than last year and the general financial position was still healthy. The intention is to continue running a deficit budget.

The Statements were approved on the proposition by Robert Horner, seconded by the Chairman.

8. Elections:

8.1 Chairman: Eric Mitchell was re-elected unopposed on the proposition of Robert Horner, seconded by James Grimshaw.

8.2 Vice- Chairman: Peter Jensen was re-elected unopposed on the proposition of Eric Mitchell, seconded by James Grimshaw.

8.3 Honorary Treasurer: Robert Horner was re-elected unopposed on the proposition of James Grimshaw, seconded by David Fisher.

8.4 Honorary Secretary: James Grimshaw was re-elected unopposed on the proposition of Robert Horner, seconded by Eric Mitchell.

8.5 Members of the Trust & Finance Committee: Doreen Flockton, John Mellor, Robert Sergeant, David Fisher, Alistair Radcliffe and John Sowdon were re-elected unopposed and Mary Kirk was elected as an additional member all on the proposition of Eric Mitchell, seconded by Peter Jensen.

9. Thanks to outgoing members:

The Chairman expressed both his personal sadness and that of all the members following the passing of Mick Walsh in July of this year. Mick was Secretary from 2012 until his resignation for health reasons in November 2017. As Secretary, almost all he did was unseen to members but what he did do was essential to the smooth running of the Society and he did it with skill and energy. He was the driving force in changing the constitution to give the members a say in how it was run. It was also he who came up with the slogan which is now used to promote our charity - 'Our vision is to support the vision of others'.

10 Appointment of the Independent Examiner:

On the proposition of Robert Horner, seconded by Michael Wilesmith, David J.S.Pullan FCA of David Pullan & Co was appointed

11. Appointment to the Services Committee:

On the proposition of Robert Horner, seconded by James Grimshaw, Marry Barr, Evelyn Sanpher, Michael Wilesmith and Beryl Wood together with volunteer representatives Steve Cobb and Sarah Dodds were appointed.

12 President:

Following the retirement of John Batchelor as Pauline Nolan was elected president on the proposition of Eric Mitchell, seconded by Tanya Stimpson

13. John Batchelor:

Following John's retirement as President and a Trustee and on behalf of the Trustees, members of staff and all the members, Eric Mitchell expressed very grateful thanks to John for over 40 years of unstinting service he had given to the Society and presented him with a token of appreciation in the form of a cheque, expressing the hope that he would use it to buy something for the garden that would remind him, whenever he saw it, of the Society and all he had done for it. After a very gracious response from John a special cake was cut and served with tea.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.35 pm