

Vision Support Harrogate District
98th Annual General Meeting
at the Vision Support Centre
Friday 8th November 2019 at 2-00pm
Minutes

1. Welcome:

The Chairman, Eric Mitchell, welcomed members

2. Prayers:

Michael Wearing lead the meeting in prayer.

3. Apologises:

Received from Pauline Nolan, Sarah Dodds, Bernard Higgins, Jane Charlton and Joan Mitchell.

4. Minutes of the AGM held on 9th November 2018:

Having been circulated these were taken as read.

5. Matters arising:

None

6. Chairman's Remarks:

EM reported that the activities of the charity continue to grow and flourish particularly the home visiting service and activities aimed at younger members. He expressed a big thank you to our Director of Services, Tanya Stimpson, and her team. He also paid tribute to our dedicated volunteers for their invaluable contribution. They give their time and expertise, without which we could not provide the much needed and much appreciated services to the visually impaired of the District.

EM said that our Eye Clinic liaison services have always been valued by patients but it is becoming more and more appreciated by the Hospital. The hope is that this may translate into a financial contribution towards the service we have provided free of charge for many years.

EM reminded those present that the Charity relied on voluntary donations and as we move ever closer to the 100th anniversary of the date the charity was first formed that, whilst we still struggle to meet our year on year expenses, we do have a solid financial foundation which will underpin our future. This will enable us to continue supporting the visually impaired of Harrogate District for many years to come.

7. Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2019:

Robert Horner presented the Financial Statements and indicated that, in line with recent previous years, a deficit was incurred, which, although somewhat higher than previously, did reflected a lower income for the year and particularly the fact that the Freemasons Grant made last year had dropped out. However the general financial position continues to be strong and the intention is to continue taking a prudent approach to running a deficit budget.

The Statements were approved on the proposition of Robert Horner, seconded by Peter Jenson.

8. Elections:

8.1 Chairman:

Eric Mitchell was re-elected unopposed.

8.2 Vice- Chairman: David Fisher was elected unopposed on the proposition of Robert Horner, seconded by James Grimshaw.

8.3 Honorary Treasurer: Robert Horner was re-elected unopposed.

8.4 Honorary Secretary: James Grimshaw was re-elected unopposed.

8.5 Members of the Trust & Finance Committee:

Doreen Flockton, John Mellor, Robert Sergeant, David Fisher, Alistair Radcliffe and Mary Kirk were re-elected unopposed and Peter Jenson and Steve Kirk were elected unanimously as additional members on the proposition of Eric Mitchell, seconded by Robert Sergeant.

9. Thanks to outgoing members:

The Chairman expressed both his personal thanks and those of the membership generally to John Sowdon who was retiring this year from the Trust and Finance Committee.

10 Appointment of the Independent Examiner:

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

11. Appointment to the Services Committee:

Mary Barr, Evelyn Sanpher and Michael Wilesmith together with volunteer representatives Steve Cobb and Sarah Dodds were appointed on the proposition of Eric Mitchell, seconded by James Grimshaw,

12 President:

Pauline Nolan was re- elected as President on the proposition of Eric Mitchell, seconded by James Grimshaw.

13. Any Other Business:

In response to a question from the floor, it was reported that consideration is being given to appointing a further part-time member of staff to assist the Director.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.22 pm