

Milton Keynes Reader Service

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
Saturday 15 June 2013
at the Peartree Centre, Milton Keynes

1. Chair's opening remarks

Paula Varey welcomed everyone to the AGM

2. Roll Call of those present

The roll call of those present is attached as Appendix A.

3. Apologies

The list of those who sent their apologies was read out and is attached as Appendix B

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 June 2012

Philip Ward read out the minutes of the last general meeting. Adoption was proposed by Mary Kendall and seconded by Mark Lawrence. The minutes were approved by the meeting.

5. Chair's Report

Mark Lawrence read out the Chair's report on behalf of Paula Varey.

Paula highlighted the progress the Reader Service had made over the past year noting that as we approach our 25th anniversary we now have over 100 volunteers servicing over 80 service users.

In these times of austerity Paula thanked those who continued to support our activities, especially Milton Keynes Council and the MK Council/ NHS Joint partnership Fund. Thanks are also due to the Walnut Tree Community Shop, West Bletchley Parish Council, Mercedes Benz, the Woodcote Trust and DHL. Without this support the Reader service would be in difficulty.

After thanking the Management Committee for their support and highlighting the contribution made by the Coordinator, Karen Preece, in her first full year in the position Paula announced that she was standing down from the role of Chair at the AGM but would remain on the management committee and take up the role of Community Shop Representative. She wished her successor in the role of Chair well.

6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Mary Kendall presented the Treasurer's report and accounts for the year ended March 2013.

Mary read out the details of the accounts noting that the balance brought forward to the current financial year had risen slightly to stand at over £27,000, putting us in a strong position going forward.

Mary also noted that receipt of the second half of the grant from Milton Keynes Council had been delayed and was not included in the accounts. The money has now been received and The Council have confirmed that it will be maintained for the year 2013/2014.

Mary also noted that after 13 years in the post she will be retiring from the position of Treasurer at the next AGM and

handing over to Chris Northcott who has been shadowing her for the past year.

Paula Varey thanked Mary for the fantastic job she was doing and welcomed Chris to the Committee.

There being no questions, adoption of the accounts was proposed by Paula Suchy , seconded by Jeff Bashton and adopted unanimously.

The reader Service is grateful to Hill and Burgess who have again checked the annual accounts free of charge.

7. Co-ordinator's Report

Karen Preece read out her report and highlighted the numerous new initiatives which have been instrumental in the growth and development of the Reader Service. Specifically Karen highlighted the setting up of a website for the service and our broader on-line presence via Facebook, local giving, and other initiatives. All attendees were encourage to visit the website at www.miltonkeynesreaderservice.org

Paula Varey thanked Karen for her continued hard work during the year.

8. Election of Chairperson and Committee

Election of Chairperson

Paula Varey stood down as Chair and one nomination for her successor had been received. That Paula Suchy be elected Chairperson was proposed by Veronica Dry and seconded by Millie Rowe. The meeting voted unanimously that Paula Suchy should become Chairperson.

A vote of thanks for the work that Paula Varey had done over the past 13 years as Chair was given by Philip Ward and Paula was presented with a gift to mark the occasion.

Paula Suchy took over as chair of the meeting at this point.

Election of Committee

Service users: Four nominations were received for four positions. Paula Varey, Caroline Pearson, Jeff Bashton and James Goldsworthy were proposed en bloc by Millie Rowe and seconded by Padma Cheriyan. Election by the meeting was unanimous.

Volunteers: Mary Kendall, Lynne Bovis, Michael Baldry and Philip Ward were proposed for the four positions by Anne-Louise Carter-Bruce and seconded by David Seville. One objection was received from the floor but all the above were elected by an overwhelming majority.

9. Questions and Suggestions

Rose Haigh raised an issue over the description of individuals on the committee as “Service User” or “Volunteer”. It was agreed that this definition will be clarified in the new constitution which will be necessary when the reader Service converts to a CIO during the coming year.

Maggie Weston of the Macular Society gave an overview of their activities and noted that meetings were moving from the first week of the month to the second week of the month. Future meetings will be held at CentreComm in CMK.

Veronica Dry thanked the Reader Service for providing volunteer support for “Eye-for-Art”

Millie Rowe suggested that a bereavement section should be added to the newsletter. The suggestion received general approval from the floor of the meeting.

It was announced to the meeting that the new Chairperson, Paula Suchy, had been appointed MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list. There was spontaneous applause from the floor, acknowledged by Paula.

10. Chair’s closing remarks.

The new Chairperson, Paula Suchy, thanked all the volunteers for their “fantastic” work over the year and gave especial thanks to Karen Preece for the dedication and commitment she has shown over the year.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay on for coffee and cakes.

The meeting closed at 11:30am