



Swindon Down's Syndrome Group

Annual General Meeting

23 February 2019 | Community Hub, Orbital Shopping Park

Minute	Description	Action
1	Attendance	
1.1	Present: Kim West, John Stow, Cailey Whitcher, Amanda Ager, Ian Tuckwell, Jo Messenger, Michael Billinge-Jones, Marina Billinge-Jones, Leslye Russell-Pierce, Julie Thomas, Clare Stow, Lane Stow, Troy Stow, Cathy Brown, Jodie Morris, Joshua Archer, Jonathan Grew, Mandy McAlpine, Beth Hinic, Paul Hinic, Bill Stringer, Sandra Stringer, Sarah Stringer, Michelle James, Abbie Carey, Jon Russell, Sam Pierce, Colette & Micheal Evans, Tim Ager, Charlotte Cobb, Jacqui Watt, Julie Carter, Nicky Power	
1.2	Apologies: Sandra Blake, Alan & Elizabeth Keiller, Cliff Puffett, Sam Harding, Mandy Hancock	
2.0	Minutes of the Previous AGM	
	Minutes agreed. Proposed by Kim West. Agreed by all those present.	
3.0	Reports and accounts	
3.1	<p>Chair's Review: 'When we look to the year ahead we always hope we can better what we achieved last year. I'm proud to say we did just that...'</p> <p>2018 proved to be another exciting year for the Group with new events, new faces and new supporters - it was definitely one to be remembered. We know how important spending time as a family is so this year we launched our family discos. The first took place in March to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and was followed up by another in the summer. It was fantastic to see so many of you there.</p> <p>During the summer holidays six young people from the Group took part in a cycling course run by Caroline Lane. The course ran over four consecutive days and were tailored specifically for people with Down's syndrome to learn to ride an unadapted bike.</p> <p>In November, with the help of the DSA, we hosted a "Tell it Right" training day for over 60 midwives from Great Western Hospital. The aim was to ensure midwives delivered accurate information to new parents who found out there was a chance their baby may have Down's syndrome. Michelle and Cailey have been working hard over the last year to ensure our 'New Parent Congratulations Packs' get to all new parents. We now have packs stored at the hospital and with the health visiting teams. The midwives who attended the training day thought that these were a fantastic idea and a great support for new families. We must say a huge thank you to Wiltshire Community Foundation for funding a grant to pay for these packs.</p> <p>It's heart warming to see every year donations big and small coming in to support our Group. We are truly grateful to every single person that raises money for us. We are lucky to be supported year-on-year by local businesses and organisations. The Crown Inn supported by Elite Stainless Fabrications held a fun day raising £3082.50 for us and another charity. We were Swindon Phoenix Rotary's Charity of the Year and we were fortunate to have received grants from Global's Make Some Noise to fund our speech therapy and Salamander Course and The Big Lottery Fund to produce our magazine 'Downtime'.</p> <p>After dedicating over 13 years, one of our long standing trustees, Mandy Hancock decided to step down. I would like to thank her for everything she has done for the Group. Mandy secured us many notable Grants over the years finishing on a high with our biggest ever of £41,300 from Global's Make Some Noise. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated trustees who work tirelessly to ensure Swindon Down's Syndrome Group undertake it's vital work. Thank you all and I look forward to seeing what we achieve in 2019!</p> <p>Our plans for 2019 onwards is to continue on our mission to help people with Down's syndrome to have the same opportunities as everyone else and raise awareness of Down's syndrome in the local community. Over the next twelve months we need to fundraise for some of our bigger projects. In total we need to raise £30,000 to fund Speech and Language Therapy (SALT), our Salamander Project and WorkFit. SALT has always been our biggest expenditure but as a Group we think its one of the most valuable services we provide.</p>	

	<p>This is a tremendous amount of money and we hope with the help of our members we can reach our target. If you are thinking of organising any events or setting yourself a challenge this year we would appreciate your help in supporting one of these great projects especially if your child benefits from one of them.</p> <p>We are currently in discussions with a therapist who may be able to deliver Speech and Language Therapy to our adults aged 25 and over. We currently only offer SALT up to the age of 25, it would be great if we could continue this.</p> <p>There are certainly some exciting things planned in 2019! We offer resource packs to everyone starting school or transitioning to secondary school. In 2019 we will be revamping the packs making them more relevant and accessible for members and looking at our training days. We will be launching our #LotsofSocks campaign, selling socks in Swindon with all money coming directly back to our Group. The money raised will be going towards WorkFit. 2019 proves to be another exciting year and we look forward to your support in achieving our plans.</p>	
3.2	<p>Accounts 2018 Accounts shared. All agreed. Proposed: Leslye Russell-Pierce; seconded: Jo Messenger</p>	
3.3	<p>Treasurer's Report: At 31 December 2018 the charity held total funds of £52,076 of which £49,480 were restricted and £2,596 were unrestricted. The charity has minimal overheads as its run by volunteers and so it does not need to build up unrestricted funds. The group would like to thank Monahan's for auditing their accounts and would like to propose Monahan's audit their accounts again next year.</p> <p>There was some fantastic fundraising efforts that raised money for the Group this year. On recommendation from Cliff, Dot Zinc employee Martin Lane chose the Group to benefit from a donation of £5,000. The family fun day and brewery raffle at the Crown (£1541.25), Bingo night organised by Anne and Cath from North Swindon Club (£1045), SIRVA sold cakes and bakes over the year (£1,187.26) and the Honda team in the Swindon Phoenix Boat Race (£600). These are just some of the fundraising efforts from our supporters and we really appreciate every penny that is raised for the Group.</p>	
4.0	<p>Appointment of charity trustees</p>	
4.1	<p>Nominations for Chair: Kim West <i>Nominated by Sandra Blake, Jo Messenger, Cherilyn Hempleman, Glynis Mercer, John Stow, Mandy McAlpine</i> <i>Seconded: Marina Billinge-Jones</i> All Agreed.</p>	
4.2	<p>Nominations for trustees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John Stow <i>(Proposed by Jo Messenger. Seconded by Mandy McAlpine)</i> 2. Jo Messenger. <i>(Proposed by Leslye Russell-Pierce. Seconded by Michelle James)</i> 3. Amanda Ager. <i>(Proposed by Kim West. Seconded by Ian Tuckwell)</i> 4. Sam Harding. <i>(Proposed by Cailey Whitcher. Seconded by Clare Stow)</i> 5. Cailey Whitcher. <i>(Proposed by Kim West, Cherilyn Hempleman, Leslye Russell-Pierce, Glynis Mercer, Mandy McAlpine. Seconded by John Stow)</i> 6. Michael Billinge-Jones <i>(Proposed by Julie Thomas, seconded by Leslye Russell-Pierce)</i> 7. Leslye Russell-Pierce. <i>(Proposed by Jo Messenger. Seconded by Michelle James)</i> 8. Ian Tuckwell. <i>(Proposed by John Stow. Seconded by Kim West)</i> 	
4.3	<p>Patrons: Julie Thomas and Cliff Puffett are happy to remain as our Patrons.</p>	
5.0	<p>Accountants We would like to appoint Monahans as the charity's accountants for 2019. Proposed: Julie Thomas; seconded: John Stow. Agreed by all.</p>	
6.0	<p>Agree funding for SALT & WorkFit We now need your approval to continue with our Speech and Language Therapy Group (from April) and our WorkFit Programme (from October). SALT - All Agreed. Proposed: Marina Billinge-Jones Seconded: Michelle James WorkFit – All Agreed. Proposed: Clare Stow Seconded: Jo Messenger</p>	
5.0	<p>Any other business</p>	
5.1	<p>Our next committee meeting is 5 March @ 7pm, Haydon Wick Parish Offices</p>	
5.2	<p>Thanked everyone for coming to our Open Day.</p>	
5.3	<p>The meeting was closed at 12.27</p>	