

Minutes of the Kingston Mencap AGM
held at 1pm on Saturday, 19th May 2018 at the
Searchlight Community Centre.

Those Present: Peter Hodges, Mary McDonald, Sue Peck, Jackie Sayers, Ilze Hopper, Emily Dyson, Pat Cox, Yvonne Upton, George Tong, Anne Hawes, Colin Cushing, Mary Macan, Paul Roberts, Sylvia Davies, Cynthia and George Ruddy.

1. The Chair, Peter Hodges, welcomed those attending, especially as it was on the day of the big wedding.
2. Apologies for absence received from Gill Wood, Debbie Cox, Ben Hodges, Heather Notermans.
3. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Mary McDonald asked if it should be mentioned that the minutes were of the last AGM of Kingston Mencap before becoming a CIO. Peter said that had been mentioned at the beginning of the Minutes.

Proposed by Mary Macan Seconded by Sue Peck

4. Peter briefly reviewed the annual report and then gave his Chairman's remarks.
 - Kingston Mencap has a healthy Bank balance, even after for the refurbishment
 - We now have our own home in Kingston, in line with our ambitions
 - By the end of this year we expect to covering our running costs and rent
 - Michelle Kitch has enabled us to expand our lettings through networking
 - We are developing a strong relationship with SEND Family Voices
 - SEND will be sharing our office from next month
 - Thanks to Michelle Kitch for her hard work promoting Searchlight as a venue
 - Possible future projects include upgrading the car park, a sensory room and garden, and getting rid of the graffiti on the roof.
 - It had been comments that Searchlight was not welcoming form the street entrance, with prison like gates and fences. (A suggestion from the floor was a mosaic on the gates.)
 - We rely on volunteers to run our Clubs – we always welcome new volunteers and members.
 - Peter said he was proud to be Chairman at this time of radical change.

A brief discussion followed.

- Anne Hawes said that Searchlight benefited our members much more that the Holiday home in Christchurch (which was sold and, effectively, paid for the refurbishment.)

- Mary McDonald said that we had been in discussions with the Council, before Searchlight became available, to purchase a house to be used for respite. This proved to be difficult because of the cost of properties in the Kingston area.
- Mary Macan said that we are seeing the benefits of bringing new groups to Searchlight and developing partnerships.
- With SEND sharing the office, it will give a presence in the building, which Balance are unable to do, being remote from the front door.
- With organisations coming together, it allows us to have one voice.
- The prayer group using the building on a regular basis. We participated in their Walk for Peace.
- Garden needs flowers etc. There has been interest in using it for BBQs

5a Treasurer's Report. Mary McDonald gave her report.

We had spent most on the refurbishment of Searchlight. Even if we do not recoup the outlay over the course of the 25 year lease, we will have spent the money for the benefit and support of people with learning disabilities in the Kingston.

We covered 60% of our running costs during the 10 months after we occupied the building. Lettings started in June.

Robert Markless was concerned that our cash in hand was too high. However, we still are negotiating the utilities, and money has to be kept in reserve for the possibility of major repairs to the roof or central heating.

We are in a good position, but do not want to have money sitting in the bank.

The accounts will be on our website next week.

A query from the floor. Why is there a Restricted Funds column which shows 'nil'?

We have no restricted funds, but the column must be included.

5b Robert Markless was re-appointed as our Independent Examiner.

Proposed by Pat Cox Seconded by Ilze Hopper

6. As this is the first AGM of Kingston Mencap as a CIO, all Trustees had to resign and be re-elected.

With the exception Mary McDonald, who is standing down, all Trustees were elected as Trustees of Kingston Mencap CIO. Peter Hodges was elected as Chairman.

Ilze Hopper. George Tong, Paul Roberts, Emily Dyson, Peter Hodges

From now on, a third of Trustees must stand down in rotation each year and be re-elected (if willing to stand). This has a maximum of three terms, limiting it to a period of 9 years as a Trustee.

Peter Hodges reported that we have had some interest in being a Trustee, including someone for the post of Treasurer. He has met one applicant and will be meeting the others next week.

Questions from floor. Do we have enough for a quorum? Yes, we do. 5% of membership needed.

Peter Hodges said that, ideally, we need Trustees with first-hand experience of learning disabilities.

Michelle Kitch works 24 hours per week, splitting time between Mencap administration and Searchlight administration.

7. There being no further business the meeting closed with a presentation to Mary McDonald.

Mary has been Treasurer for 8 years, and in that time she has changed the accounting system to be more transparent, especially concerning the various clubs. Peter thanked Mary for all her hard work and dedication. Having worked closely with Mary whilst Chairman, Peter will greatly miss her support and counsel. Mary said she thought it was time for a new person, with new ideas, to take over the job. It was mentioned that, if a Treasurer could not be found, we might go down the route of having a book-keeper for one or two days a month. In any event, we would have to have a nominated Treasurer on the Board.

Sue Peck thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication.