

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Somerset Court Autistic Trust held at Somerset Court on Saturday July 6 2013

Present: Mr. N.Sudgen (Chairman)
Mr. G.de Groot (Secretary)

Dr. M. Allison
Mr F. Burnell
Mrs. I , Burnell
Mr. M. Burnell
Mrs. Y Burnell
Mr . J. Bussell
Mrs. K. Bussell
Lorraine Crockett
Mrs. I. de Groot
Mr.B. Harris
Dawn Quelch
Ian Quelch
Joy Sudgen
Oliver Wilson
Barbara Wilson
Mrs Johnson

Mrs. M.Hinckes
Mr. D. Hinckes
Mr.W.Hinckes
Mrs.S.Horack
Mr.B. Horack
Mrs. M.Lushington
Jan Lilley
Mary Lewis
Pamela Mullinder
Linda Rhead
Roy Smith
Julie Smith
Elizabeth Whitehead
John Whitehead
Mr G. Williams
Mrs P . Williams

1Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mrs Pollet Williams

2. Minutes of last meeting: Were approved as a correct record. Proposed by Mrs J. Sudgen seconded by Mrs. M. Lushington

3. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising

4. Accounts

Chairman explained the new committee and trustees. He pointed out that the accounts were now published on the SCAT website but any member who required hard copies should ask and they would be sent.

The accounts showed a current balance of £41,406.

Chairman pointed out that SCAT had hired the marquee in which Partnership day would be held.

He reminded members that Somerset Court would be celebrating its 40th anniversary next year and that we wished to mark it with a special celebration. Various ideas were mooted as to the date and which celebrities might be approached. Final arrangements would have to await the appointment of the new Area Manager for the South West and the new Manager of the Court

The accounts were unanimously adopted, proposed by Mrs. Harris and seconded by Mr. G..Williams.

5. Revised Constitution

Chairman pointed out that the new constitution while not substantially different from the old, John Price - SCAT's treasurer- had brought it into line with the model proposed by the Charity Commissioners.

Chairman pointed out that the few residents who it was proposed to move to Fernerey House in Burnham-on-Sea would still come under the aegis of SCAT as the house would be managed by the same Registered Manager who managed a house in Somerset Court and that Fernerey would be considered as an extension of the Court

Mrs P Williams questioned whether her daughter Gwendoline's suggestions had been incorporated. The trustees felt that the constitution as it stood satisfactorily took care of the points raised. Secretary pointed out that this had been addressed in an email from John Price.

The constitution was passed.. Proposed by Mrs I.de Groot, seconded by Mrs. I.Burnell

6 A.O. B.

There was further discussion of the plans for the 40th anniversary. Chairman pointed out that this would be a mainly NAS event but that SCAT should be involved.

Secretary reminded members of the 25th anniversary and it was felt that that could be a good model. Meeting felt that the NAS PR department - a member of which was at the meeting- should be involved.

Suggestions included trying to find the old Magpie film about Somerset Court; trying to find the plaque commemorating Princess Anne's visit to the Court and the portrait of Sybil Elgar and re-hanging them; involving the local community; invite the Countess of Wessex or Jane Asher; and asking local hotels and B&Bs to offer a discount to those attending; and to have a competition in local schools etc for the design of a poster to publicise the event..

Some discussion took place about the number of parents who were still not members of SCAT. Chairman pointed out that our Newsletter now goes to all the Court's Houses and that he would arrange for it to go to all parents whether or not they were SCAT members.

Chairman said all would be discussed when the new management was in position..

The AGM ended at 12.00 o'clock.

The meeting was then joined by Hannah Barnett - who has recently taken over the post of Director of Adult Services, Michelle Payne- who takes up the post of Manager of the South West region in August, and Paul Nazandony from the PR department of the NAS

Hannah pointed out that though she had been with the NAS for many years she had only very recently taken over her new post. She was aware of the recent problems at the Court and the need for some rebuilding of trust and confidence. Mr de Groot said that had we had had a body like the old SSC then the problems of the last few years could never have lasted so long . He pleaded for the setting up of some sort of parents' consultative committee - possibly in all NAS units- and pointed

out that he had written to Mark Milton about this. Hannah agreed that this should be given consideration.

Mrs Horack also emphasized the need for more consultation with parents and advocates and Mr Williams complained about the lack of communication with regards to The Court's strategy and expressed the hope that this would be improved.

Hannah informed the meeting that the NAS was undertaking a general survey of all buildings and promised to give consideration to all points raised.

The meeting ended at 12.30pm.