

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Somerset Court Autistic Trust Held at Somerset Court on Saturday July 4 2015

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

Dr. M. Allison
Mr B. Bussell
Mrs K. Bussell
Mrs I.de Groot
Mr.L Hinckes
Mrs. M. Hinckes
MRsS. Horack
Mrs .M. Lushington
Linda Rhead
Mr R. Harris
Ms. Z Williams

Mr R. Smith
Mrs. J.Smith
Mr. D. Sugden
Mrs J. Sudden
Mr J .Whitehead
Mrs E.Whitehead
Mrs P . Williams
Mr.G.P. Williams
Mr. G. Williams
Mrs G. Williams- Pollet
Mr O.Wilson
Mrs B. Wilson

1Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Burnell

2. Minutes of last meeting: Were approved as a correct record. Proposed by Mrs. J .Sugden seconded by Mrs E. Whitehead

3.Matters arising:

Under matter arising Chairman pointed out the SCAT funds had been allocated to , among other projects, servicing the go-karts, and equipment for the sensory room including creating a cinema type environment.

4. Accounts

Chairman circulated copies of the latest accounts.

The accounts were unanimously adopted, proposed by Mrs . I. de Groot and seconded by Mrs M. Lushington

Yet again Secretary pointed out that expenditure exceeded income and there was a limit to how long this could go on.

Chairman pointed out there were simple ways of raising money for SCAT. For instance in his family they accumulated any pennies they received and it was surprising how quickly it amounted up. Most banks will accept coins for a charity account.

He reminded members of the point made at last year's AGM that on the SCAT web site they would find five ways in which members could help to raise money for SCAT

5. Change to the Constitution.

With the establishment of Fernery House the trustees proposed a change to the constitution which would enable SCAT to support residents living there or in any future similar extensions of Somerset Court.

They proposed that the objectives of SCAT be changed to read:

“The Charity’s objects (“the objects”) are to promote the relief of autistic people living at Somerset Court Brent Knoll, Somerset; Fernery House, Burnham-on- Sea, Somerset; and any other residential care facility operated by the National Autistic Society (charity number 269425) in Somerset which the trustees choose to support.”

There was some discussion with one or two members querying the use of the word “relief”. Chairman explained that this was a standard form of expression.

The point was raised as to what criteria would be used to determine whether a satellite house should be supported by SCAT. Chairman and Secretary said that it would relate to the extent of the connection (historical and current) between the residents in the satellite house and Somerset Court. Chairman made it clear that such judgments would be made by the Trustees.

The proposal was passed with 22 votes in favour and 3 abstentions.

6 A.O. B.

Ms Williams queried the constitutional requirement that meant that only one vote per family was allowed, arguing that she , for instance, felt disenfranchised. Secretary explained the need for this restriction, assuring that every resident was equally represented , regardless of how many family members they had.

At 12.00 the meeting was joined by Michelle Payne , Area Manager, South West Region; Amy Thorne, Residential Manager for Mendip House and Knoll House; and Roxanne Faulks.

Michelle Payne announced that recruitment was underway as it had been decided that , as in the past, the Court would be restructured so that. each house would have its own Registered Manager. She circulated an organisation chart including contact numbers for all key personnel. She reported that the Court had been visited by the Chairman of Somerset County Council, who was very supportive, and that the court had also received plants from the Chelsea Flower Show donated by Alan Gardener who had said that he would continue support the Court.

Roxanne Faulks presented the proposals for the Yurts project and explained why she felt current residents would get considerable benefit from it. An explanatory brochure was distributed.

Amy Thorne reported on the establishment of an events committee and various fund raising activities and proposed purchases, including a zip wire, audio equipment and smoke machines.=, and an additional computer in each house. Consideration was being given to the purchasing or renting of couple bikes.

The meeting ended at 12.55 pm.

