

Stamma AGM Minutes

1pm-2:30pm, 10th October 2020, held online via Zoom

The Chair, Tim Fell, welcomed attendees to the AGM, 117 people registered to attend, 57 attended on the day. The panel were able to see questions raised by those attending via a Q&A box, and the a live commentary feed, allowing people to comment and chat.

Apologies: These were received from Lucy Clegg, John Russell and Lynne Mackie.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Propose to accept the Minutes, Neil Morjaria, seconded Gill Rudd.

Finance Report:

Gary Barth took the meeting through the finance report, and responded to questions from the floor. He noted a small error in the Annual Report, where one of the columns had not been completed, but regarded this as not significant. The end of the year will finish with a slightly higher deficit, £13K rather than a £2.5K surplus, but the decision has been taken, with the legacy, to revert back to our plans to expand with the two new posts.

Questions

Subscriptions. Jane Powell said that the decision to drop subscriptions was made prior to her appointment, but managing them is expensive, and often means that members go off and raise funds for another charity. More income can come through fundraising if financial support isn't mandatory.

Principal sources of income. The split is usually even between grants and public donations; on top of this are legacies which are variable, and income from sales and conference, which is nominal.

ESN We no longer fund ESN activities, Iain is now fully involved in 50 Million Voices. Instead we've created a specialist section of the site devoted to work, and will fund efforts supporting people at work via other routes.

Support for the nations. The organisation is not a grant giving organisation, so we don't normally give grants, but we do have local groups. With an agreement with the group in Northern Ireland, we've agreed to pass back funds they've raised locally to launch a group.

Campaign Report:

CEO, Jane Powell took the AGM through the slides illustrating progress against the key objectives set in 2018, noting progress and progressively higher levels of engagement in trustee elections and volunteering.

Appointment of Auditors

Gary noted that because our income level has increased over the threshold, we will be liable for costs up to £4.8k as we will hit the threshold for an audit next year.

Trustee Elections

Tim announced the results of the last election and asked the AGM to vote on accepting the results of this election, with Joanna Gaukroger and Max Gattie topping the votes.

At the Board, under article 41, Sibon Phiri would take Abed's place for the next year.

Articles of Association

Prasan walked through the recommended changes to the Articles.

Vernon Tottle flagged that membership terminates if members pass or resign but what happens if they don't do either? Prasan explained that our internal process for this and is set it out at article 12.6 (f).

Paul Blythe asked if the organisation was still called the British Stammering Association. Jane responded that it was, but we were using Stamma as a trading name.

Ashley Morrison asked if there were plans to convert the Articles into plain English, and offered to help do this. Prasan said that the Articles have been updated with the intention to be able to be reviewed easily by Stamma's members and the current form of the Articles have been approved by the Charity's Commission. Jane followed up that there was nothing to stop Stamma having a guidance document on the Articles available in plain English.

Voting

Voting on the all of the Resolutions was taken together.

Resolution 1: to accept nominations of Joanna & Max. 51 voted for, 2 abstentions, 1 voted against. proposed by Gary Barth, seconded by Kirsten Howells.

Resolution 2 : to appoint auditors Royce Peeling Green. 50 voted for, 1 against, 3 abstentions; proposed by Mark Renwick, seconded by Gillian Rudd.

Resolution 3: to accept new Articles. 53 voted for, 1 abstained, proposed by Paul Fix, seconded by Barbara Class-Peter.

AOB

Derek Maynard asked if there is an update on Conference. Jane responded that it we can, we'll hold the conference next year, Covid permitting.

Vernon Tottle asked about masks, is this a problem for other people who stammer. Jane said it was, we had an article on the website with advice on this issue, and will also be producing our own masks, out shortly.

The meeting finished at 2:35 and was followed by a presentation on the ISAD campaign.