

LEISURE DIRECT

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on Tuesday 21st June 2016 at the Free Church Hall, Gernon Road, Letchworth

Present

Jackie Allen	Claire Johnson
Stephanie Allen	Dale King
Connor Atkinson	Ben Lacy
Lucy Bamberough	Michael Liddle
Carol Benjafield	Clifford Little
Andrew Bett	Janet Little
Sean Blackmore	Charlotte Loring
Teena Blackmore	Kamal Mahal
Janet Chetwin	Oliver Marshall
Phillip Chetwin	Jackie Nealon
Steph Child	Kath Oliver
Edward Cooke	Mary Pearce
Ian Cooper	Annette Perry
Sam Dacey	Chris Plunkett
Martin Davies	Lee Poulton
Beccy Driscoll	Sam Prowse
Sylvia Edwards	Max Rosser-Smyth
Margaret Filby	Claire Smith
Frances Fisher	Zoe Theakston
Charlie Forgione	Alan Thomson
Laura Gentle	Jami Turvey
Theresa Gentle	David Wall
Diane Gibson	Margaret Wall
Hannah Gibson	Julie Warner
Roz Haigh	Evie Wilcock
Gil Harding	Maria Wilcock
Lisa Harrington	Emma Williams
Maggie Henderson	Hollie Williams
Lesley Hewitt	Rosy Williams
Danny Hill	Shane Willis
	Pat Winsor
	Joshua Wood

1. **Welcome**

Gil welcomed everyone to the meeting with special mention of parents and carers, PC Beccy Driscoll and Jackie, Shane and Zoe from Jackie's Drop-In.

2. **Apologies**

Helen Bean	Sandra Major
Chris Day	Monica Sage
Caroline Godfrey	Pam Wall
Sharon Harding	Marie Woodman

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

These were agreed and signed by the Chairman

4. Hate Crime

Beccy Driscoll, who is the Hate Crime Officer for Stevenage and North Herts, gave a talk about Hate Crime. She explained that a hate crime occurs when a person is treated differently on account of their religion, sexuality, race, gender identity, racial origin or disability.

She thanked Leisure Direct for becoming a Third Party Reporting Centre where any of its members can report a hate crime, wherever this may have happened, to one of Leisure Direct's specially trained volunteers who will record the incident and then follow the correct procedure to take the matter further.

5. Activity Report

Claire presented her report. The main points are as follows:

- The party at the Broadway Hotel to celebrate our 20th Anniversary was attended by more than 130 people.
- In some weeks during the year there were 4 activities on offer due to the introduction of the Art and Kurling clubs.
- Introduction of nominating a Leisure Direct friend to go on trips/holidays with, which recognises the needs of more independent members and ensures that best friends/couples are sure of either both going or neither of them going on certain activities.
- Working towards becoming a Third Party Reporting Centre for Hate Crime.
- Following an inspection from our HCC contract manager, Leisure Direct was rated "Excellent" in his end of year report. Thanks to support from members, volunteers and Sharon's hard work in the office.
- 37 members were supported on a 5 day holiday to Potters at Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk.
- This year there were 147 members and 30 volunteers - having removed the cap of 140 this is the maximum number of members in one year.
- There have been 141 activities plus the 5 day holiday and 3,938 attendances (number of times members have attended an activity).
- Our fundraising and grant application sub-committee (GAS) have both worked extremely hard and have more than covered the shortfall of our core (HCC) funding.
- Our HCC grant for 2016-7 is in place with the major review still ongoing. The work of our sub-committees show that we are a sustainable charity and worth funding.
- Thanks to carers for completing the carers' questionnaire enabling us to fulfil the requirement of HCC to give statistical information about carers.
- Thanks to volunteers for their support and commitment both at activities and behind the scenes.
- Thanks to the committee, to parents, support staff/carers and members who have helped with fundraising.
- A huge thank you to Sharon for keeping on top of the admin as well as setting up and running the website and managing social media.
- Thank you to our members who are a joy to work with.

6. Chairman's Report

Gil presented his report. The main points are as follows:

- Leisure Direct has had a very successful year. Thanks to Claire and Sharon and to all volunteers and members.
- Our HCC funding has been confirmed for 2016-7 after which a decision will be made on how they will fund organisations such as Leisure Direct in the future.
- Trustee Liability insurance has been added to our existing insurance to protect our Trustees in the event of a trustee (or trustees) contravening the governance or financial viability of the charity.
- A staff pension scheme has been set up with effect from 1st April 2016.
- Leisure Direct has become a Third Party Hate Crime Reporting Centre.
- Thanks to the Executive Committee. Six people will have completed their two year term of office. Claire Johnson, Chris Plunkett and Gil Harding will be seeking re-election. Sadly, Sylvia Edwards and David Wall will be standing down due to other commitments. Special thanks to David who for many years has been our Treasurer and has ensured that Leisure Direct has managed its funds in a responsible and legal manner. Janet Little has offered her resignation one year early due to other commitments. Thanks to Janet and Sylvia for many years of service. All three will remain as volunteers.

7. Accounts for Acceptance

David presented the annual accounts, which he then described in detail and reported that we have £12,000 more money in the bank than last year. He invited questions.

Lee asked what will happen next year. David replied that we will continue to try and raise funds but that a break-even situation would be acceptable.

Our top two grants from Baily Thomas (£5000) and Santander (£3,800) were raised by the GAS committee (whose only member is now Gil). Gil said that it was increasingly difficult to find grant giving organisations which supported people with learning disabilities and it is often wrongly confused with mental health. It is also difficult because we have more than one year's running costs. He also thanked Chris Plunkett and the Fundraising team for their hard work in organising events and raising magnificent sums of money.

All members at the AGM voted to accept the Accounts which were then signed by the Chairman.

8. Election of Executive Committee

The following people were elected for a two-year term of office:

Chair - Gil Harding

Treasurer - Julie Warner

Executive Committee Members - Chris Plunkett, Pat Winsor, Claire Johnson, Joshua Wood.

Roz Haigh was elected for a one-year term of office.

Thanks to Ian Cooper who has served on the committee for many years.

Unfortunately a nomination form for Ian was not received in time.

9. **Any Other Business**

Phillip Chetwin was the winner of the £10 voucher which can be used against the cost of an activity.

Sam Prowse said that it is Learning Disability Awareness Week this week and he is proud to see everyone out tonight and being actively involved in our charity.

Diane Gibson thanked Claire for all she does for Leisure Direct.

Lee said he hoped that we will again win the Mencap Learning Disability games in July.

Sean thanked the volunteers for all their support.

Janet Chetwin thanked everyone involved with the organisation and running of the recent holiday at the Calvert Trust which Phillip enjoyed very much.