

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Darlington & District Talking Newspaper (DDTN) on 11 April 2022



The meeting was held by Zoom.

PRESENT: Trustees: Lynne Goodes, David Green, Kate Grogan, Richie Hawkins, Paul Knight, David Smith, Pat Walker, **Volunteers:** Stefan Gleisner, Maureen Gorman, Roland Lang, David Roberts,
APOLOGIES: Trustees: Ged Callaghan, Michael Taylor, Margaret Harrison, **Volunteers:** Stuart Connell, June Goodrick, Ciaran Grogan, Alison Mannion, Margaret Reay.

David Smith **welcomed** everyone to the second AGM of the DDTN under the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation status. Voting is by a show of hands if present at this meeting or by prior return of the proxy voting form. Seventeen identifiable proxy forms have been received and two unsigned and untraceable forms. The Trustees Annual Report, Statement of Accounts, information on resolutions and election candidates were sent to all members with the invitation to the AGM.

The **Trustees Annual Report** was read out and explained by David Smith. Thanks were given for this report.

The **Statement of Accounts** was explained by David Green. David said that the last 3 years has been extraordinary with the office move and then Covid. Fundraising opportunities have been very limited although they are now starting to arise. We have lost £14,000 in the last 3 years; £11k of this was in rent. A large overhead this year was the purchase of a new PC which the Rotary Club kindly funded.

The Talking Newspaper is in a good financial position and we more than meet our stated aim of 3 years funds in reserve.

Paul from Taxation Advisory Services is very concerned that our finances are being eaten up by paying rent. Paul has suggested the trustees look for new, free or cheaper, offices. David S on behalf of the Trustees said they would do so when there was time available. Thanks were given for this report.

Members voted on the resolution to **accept the Previous AGM minutes dated 10 May 2021** an accurate record. DG proposed and it was seconded by MG. One proxy vote abstention. Agreed.

Members voted on the resolution to **accept the Trustees Annual Report**. There were no votes against or abstentions. Agreed.

Members voted on the resolution to **accept the Statement of Accounts**. There were no votes against or abstentions. Agreed.

Members voted on the resolution to **accept the Appointment of Taxation Advisory Services as 2021 auditors**. There were no votes against or abstentions. Agreed.

Election of Charity Trustees

All current trustees were re-elected by vote; namely Ged Callaghan, David Green, Kate Grogan, Margaret Harrison, Richie Hawkins, Paul Knight, David Smith, Michael Taylor and Pat Walker. Lynn Goodes was also elected as a new trustee. All trustees received a minimum of 24 votes.

Election of Officers

Officers were elected by vote as follows: David Smith as Chair, David Green as Treasurer and Kate Grogan as Secretary. All officers received a minimum of 26 votes. One proxy vote form abstained from voting for officials.

Any Other Business

It was asked how much Taxation Advisory Services charge - £220 per year.

It was asked which organisations paid us to produce recordings. We produce the Councils One Darlington and The Hippodromes What's On. The Masons took over their own recordings a couple of years ago.

A comment was made that many volunteers prefer the new office. Car parking particularly was much easier and less time consuming than at The Northern Echo

David Roberts expressed the thanks of volunteers to the Committee for their work over the last year.

The meeting then closed with David S thanking everyone for attending and supporting our Talking Newspaper.