

TALK

SUPPORTING APHASIA RECOVERERS AFTER STROKE

Registered Charity No. 1176014



Minutes of the Twenty Second Annual General Meeting Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 1pm St Catherine's Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford, GU2 4HF

1. Welcome and apologies:

Carol welcomed everyone to the first AGM of the TALK Surrey CIO following the charity's change in status to a CIO last year.

Apologies had been received from Bill Patterson and his wife Pat, Alan Price (Trustee), Derek Aldridge (G Live Director) and Tony Samuels (Leader of Surrey County Council).

Carol extended a warm welcome to Councillor Marsha Moseley, Deputy Mayor of Guildford, Councillor Beryl Hunwicks, Mayor of Woking, Councillor Mary Forszewska Mayor of Waverley and Lucy Wakefield, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, Milford Hospital.

2. Minutes of Twenty First AGM of TALK held on 27 June 2018:

Carol explained that the minutes of the previous AGM were prior to TALK's change of status to a CIO. These were accepted as a true record.

3. Chair's Report: [Carol Sacchett]

Carol explained that she had stepped in as Interim Chair of TALK Surrey CIO in February 2019. Carol thanked Richard Moule, the former Chair, for all his hard work on behalf of TALK. She added that Richard had led TALK through a number of changes during his three and a half years as Chair and said he will be greatly missed.

Carol stated that TALK had also said goodbye to Trustees Tricia Golding, Geraint Thomason and Garry Evans, Treasurer, who resigned from the committee during the year. She expressed her thanks to all of them for their hard work for the charity.

Carol added that TALK are also very grateful to Rosa Dennis, who has decided to step down from her role as speech and language therapy advisor to the charity. Rosa has provided highly valued advice and input over many years and we wish her well in her retirement.

Carol said she was delighted to introduce TALK's new Trustees: David Gunn, Treasurer and Gill Simmons who is a long standing volunteer at Knaphill. Carol went on to explain that TALK are actively seeking new members to join the Board of Trustees, in particular someone to

take over the role of Chair and someone who will take the role of secretary. Carol expressed her thanks to Caroline Parkes for continuing to cover secretarial duties and for her valuable advice to the Committee.

Carol thanked all the Trustees and staff who have continued to drive TALK forward. She stated that Sharon Spurdle, TALK Operations Manager, has been with the charity for a year and has proved an enthusiastic and highly effective addition to the team. Alison Wainwright, Group Coordinator, has continued to provide valuable support to the groups and volunteers. Jo Matthews, Fundraising Coordinator, has continued to do sterling work to ensure that our finances and future remain secure.

Carol stated that she was extremely grateful to the volunteers who run the weekly TALK groups for their on going support and enthusiasm, with special mention to the Volunteer Group Leaders: Jenny Wilson (Walton), Caroline Parkes (Guildford morning), Rosemarie Juliano (Guildford afternoon), Marianne Herne (Ashford) and Evelyne Collins (Knaphill). She added that particular mention should go to the Knaphill Group for receiving the Woking High Sherriff's award in recognition of their contribution to the local community.

Carol reported that TALK's first year as a CIO has been very successful, both in terms of income raised and developments. The 2019-20 financial year has started on a strong footing, thanks largely to a successful bid to The National Lottery Community Fund Reaching Communities programme, securing some recurrent income for the next 5 years. TALK also continued to receive grants from Ashford and St Peter's NHS Trust and Local Authorities, as well as grants from a range of Charitable Trusts. Carol explained that TALK has been accepted as "Charity of the Year" by G Live, in Guildford, which will be invaluable in promoting TALK's work locally.

Carol explained that the £20k for 20 years fundraising campaign had been highly successful, thanks to the tireless and imaginative support of TALK members, who organised and participated in a range of activities, we surpassed our target of raising £20,000 in 12 months. She added that the Trustees intend to use most of these funds to provide groups with more money to spend on activities to give our recoverers and volunteers a year to remember with TALK.

There were no questions for the Chair.

4. Election of new Trustees

Carol proposed that we elect David Gunn and Gill Simmons to the Board of Trustees, this was seconded by Charles Stokes and supported by a unanimous show of hands of those present.

5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019: [Garry Evans]

Garry explained that the previous assets of TALK had transferred to TALK Surrey CIO on 1st April 2018. He added that at an operational level the charity had continued as before, but from a financial point of view the TALK charity no longer existed.

Garry explained that TALK Surrey CIO had no previous accounts to compare on a year on year

basis. He reported that the new CIO had traded near breakeven in year ending 31 March 2019, the previous year for TALK had been a deficit of nearly £17k. Garry stated that income had grown to £88k, which is a growth of 20% year on year, a large proportion of which was grants. He added that TALK had secured longer term funding from The National Lottery for a 5 year period and the first amount of £10k had been received.

Garry stated that the campaign to raise £20k for 20 years, surpassed the target due to the efforts from the team.

He reported that costs were largely the same as the previous year, with the Trustees keeping focus and control on a monthly basis. There is a focus on continual improvements in processes, including a monthly financial review.

Garry stated that the charity had changed their Accountants to Lowson Ward, and he was working closely with them for advice, especially around technical matters such as Payroll.

There were no questions for the Treasurer.

6. Operations Manager Report: [Sharon Spurdle]

Sharon explained her role in the charity, along with her perceptions of her first year including the important and supportive interaction between volunteers and recoverers. She outlined that volunteers plan and run two hour sessions with activities in their groups, which is challenging.

Sharon stated that she had been working with Dyscover, another charity that supports people with aphasia in East Surrey, to develop training for all new volunteers with support from a speech and language therapist. A speech and language therapist will also continue to provide appraisals and feedback to the groups.

Current group recoverer numbers were reported as:

Ashford 10

Guildford AM 17

Guildford PM 10

Knaphill 21

Walton 17

Home visits 2

There were no questions for the Operations Manager.

7. Fundraising and Public Awareness Report: [Joanna Matthews]

Jo reported that overall it was strong year of fundraising from trusts and foundations. Notable successes included; core funding from the Community Foundation for Surrey, Co-op Local Community fund for Guildford groups and renegotiated NHS funding through the Ashford and St Peter's Foundation Trust, which represents 12% of our funding.

Jo explained that TALK continues to have loyal funders, who see the value in what we are doing.

Community funding focused on the £20k for 20 years campaign and Jo stated that the groups rallied behind this initiative. She expressed her appreciation and thanks to recoverers, their families and volunteers for their support in a variety of fundraising events, including a charity dance night, a sponsored London Marathon runner, a quiz evening, a sponsored walk in Shepperton, three sponsored riders in the Surrey Ride 100 and a sponsored coast to coast walk. Combined this raised just under £21k.

Jo explained that TALK is the G Live local charity of the year for 2019.

Jo reported that funding had been secured from The National Lottery Community Fund of £100k over 5 years.

There were no questions for the Fundraising Coordinator.

8. Nomination of independent examiner for the accounts:

Carol nominated Lawson Ward as the independent examiner of accounts. This was unanimously agreed

9 .Any other business:

None

10. Date, time and place of next AGM:

Wednesday 24th June 2020 at 1pm venue to be advised

The meeting closed at 13:30