



TALK SURREY CIO

SUPPORTING APHASIA RECOVERERS AFTER STROKE Registered Charity No.
1176014

Minutes of the Twenty Fifth Annual General Meeting Tuesday 3rd October 2023
at 1.00 p.m. at St Catherine's Hall, Guildford

Present: Carol Sacchett (Chair), David Gunn (Treasurer), Clive Moon (Secretary), Evelyne Collins (Trustee), Gill Simmons (Trustee), Angel Wu (Trustee), Tanya Gregory (Trustee), Jo Matthews (Fundraising Manager), Jenny Wilson (Group Coordinator), Masuk Miah (Mayor of Guildford), Parvin Begum (Mayoress of Guildford), Ilyas Raja (Mayor of Woking) and Mayoress of Woking, Members: Maureen and Les Pink, Janette Turner, Liz Morley, Siw Harston, Joy Anderson

1. Welcome and apologies for absence – Carol Sacchett (CS)

CS welcomed everyone to the AGM, specifically the Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford and the Mayor of Woking .

Apologies received from Sharon Spurdle (Operations Manager), Margaret Bennett.

2. Minutes of twenty-fourth AGM held on 29 September 2022

These were agreed.

3. Chair's Report – Carol Sacchett

CS reported that the four weekly groups were fully back in operation and, whilst numbers remain low compared to pre-pandemic, they are slowly increasing. 25 new Members have joined in the last year.

We have also welcomed a number of new Volunteers who have undergone training with Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs).

CS thanked our Group Leaders and Volunteers for their invaluable work.

A UCL Service User Evaluation study carried out in 2023 amongst members confirmed that a sense of inclusion and improved communication and overall confidence has been appreciated.

We were sorry to lose Philippa Mitchell from the Board of Trustees but welcome two new Trustees, Angel Wu and Tanya Gregory who bring particularly valuable skills.

We are pleased to welcome Jenny Wilson to the role of Group Coordinator. Her efficiency and experience are much appreciated by the groups.

We thank our other Staff members Jo Matthews and Sharon Spurdle for the continued hard work. Also Alison Wainwright and Martyn Batten for their support of the website.

A key focus this year has been to raise awareness by way of greater contact with SLTs and involvement in the new Integrated Stroke Delivery Network for Surrey, plus talks to local WIs and Rotary.

We have also raised funds through street collections and taking part in the Guildford Rotary Charity Walk.

4. Election of Trustees – Carol Sacchett

In accordance with the rotation policy in our Constitution CS is due to stand down. However, she agreed to continue as a Trustee and this was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

CS stressed the continued need for a new Chair and Trustees but none were forthcoming at this time.

5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 – David Gunn

DG reported that the accounts had been audited by Haines Watts Esher and they had been satisfied with the 2022-2023 accounts.

A copy of the annual report and accounts is available on TALK's website.

DG confirmed that we remain stable though in an increasingly challenging fundraising environment which will require close monitoring.

6. Operations Manager's Report – Sharon Spurdle (SS)

A positive year placing lots of interesting new members with different reasons for joining TALK. The Group Leaders have made the new members feel welcome, recognising their diverse needs and thus building their confidence. Our Volunteers have delivered very interactive and fun sessions, enabling members to engage with others in the group, no matter their level of aphasia. Jenny has worked really hard as our new Group Coordinator, bringing new guest speakers to the groups, widening the range of activities on offer. SLTs have attended various sessions to see how our support groups work, with a view to boosting referrals.

7. Fundraising and Public Awareness Report – Jo Matthews (JM)

The situation with grant funding remains difficult as many authorities and grant giving trusts are cutting back, so we have had a mixed year.

We have succeeded in gaining a grant from the Masonic Trust, and continue to seek opportunities wherever possible.

8. Any other business

Janette Turner – Volunteer at Knaphill – observed that with Woking Borough Council's cutbacks we fear pressure at The Vyne facility, which has already closed its café, so we need to keep an eye on that situation.

9. Date of next AGM

This to be agreed and circulated.

Charity number: 1176014