

TALK SURREY CIO

Supporting people with aphasia after stroke or brain injury

Registered Charity No. 1176014

Minutes of the Twenty Seventh Annual General Meeting Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 12.15 p.m. at Brooklands Museum

Present: Trustees: Carol Sacchett, in the chair, Clive Moon (Secretary), Evelynne Collins, Janette Turner, Tanya Maguire, Fred Fulcher (Treasurer), Mike Waite; Sharon Spurdle (Operations Manager), Jenny Wilson (Group Coordinator); Cllr Amanda Boote Mayor of Woking, Cllr Jane Tyson Deputy Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Margaret Harnden Mayor of Runnymede plus Consort Dennis Brown BEM; Members: Maureen Pink, Anita Staples, Jackie Staples, Brian Stratford, Derek Betts, Jonathan Bingham, Keith Wherlock, Lou Johnson, Suki Athwal, Ian Alden, Tony O'Dell ; Volunteers : Barbara Raptopoulos, Carol Barr, Caroline Parkes, Diana Shaw, Eileen Brister, Fiona Neal, Heidi Lee, Joy Anderson, Julie Stow, Marianne Herne, Maureen Littleboy, Melanie Lloyd, Nicky Flew, Pam Harvey, Sandra Parsons, Val Venning, Monica Baughen; Other supporters and partners: Les Pink, Frankie Stratford, Freeda Betts, Marion Alder, Hai Hong Alder, Nick Lloyd, Peter Talbot, Ray Harvey, Roy Turner

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

One apology noted: Gill Simmons – Trustee

CS welcomed everyone to the AGM, specifically the Mayors and the large number of Members and Volunteers in attendance.

She stressed that she was no longer the Chair of the charity whilst agreeing to chair this meeting, and that we need to find a new Chair.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 26th November 2024

These were approved.

3. Chair's Report

The acting chair reported on the work of the charity during the 2024-25 financial year.

She thanked particularly Sharon, the Operations Manager, for her hard work in dealing with our referrers, speech and language therapists and The Stroke Association to gain as many referrals as possible and also in recruiting a steady stream of Volunteers.

Our Membership number at 1st April 2025 was 68. They received over 300 hours of support.

Also thanked was Jenny, Group Coordinator, for her work supporting the groups, the Volunteers, providing materials and conducting risk assessments.

Carol also thanked the Volunteers, in total 45, and the Group Leaders – Caroline, Evelyne, Marianne and Carol herself, for all their dedication and hard work.

A special mention to our Members and their families/carers who bring them to the groups. When Aphasia occurs confidence can drop and TALK groups help Members meet others who have been through the same thing.

Carol also thanked the Trustees and repeated her appeal for a new Chair, thanking Phil Wellard who had stepped in as Chair in February 2024 but unfortunately had to leave shortly after.

She also thanked Angel Wu who resigned from the Board but had done excellent work on our Fundraising.

Also sincere thanks to David Gunn, our Treasurer for the past 8 years, for all his sterling work, ensuring our financial stability

Importantly we also thank our Funders, Donors and supporters who have helped to put us in a strong position

4. Election of new Trustees

Fred Fulcher, as our new Treasurer, and Mike Waite, a service user, were unanimously elected as Trustees.

5. Treasurer's report

Fred Fulcher reported that we had a surplus of £33,000 (£20,000 in 2024) and are therefore comfortably meeting our reserve policy of 6 months costs.

Income in the financial year 2024/25 was £70,000 and costs £42,000 – reduced mainly due to reductions in Staffing costs due to the resignation of our Fundraiser, who was not replaced during 2024-25.

Income is derived from grants (c. 50%), plus Member contributions and other donations.

We shall continue to apply for grants (some of which have been given over a number of years), a fundraising consultant having been retained to replace the previous Fundraising Manager.

6. Operations Manager's report

Sharon described a really positive year with partnerships with the Stroke Association and SLTs, plus the Stroke Delivery Network, where we had made good links

TALK had been commissioned by Central Surrey Health to help with waiting lists. People with aphasia could be waiting for 2 years for NHS speech and language therapy in the community.

We have made contact with the Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum with a view to increasing diversity of our membership among harder to reach groups, and a visit is planned to the Mosque in Woking

Sharon thanked Jenny for bringing in new, fresh Speakers and organising very successful outings

UCL had conducted an evaluation of our service and commented on the sense of belonging and confidence engendered, the value of peer support including from Volunteers and Carers.

7. Fundraising and Public Awareness

As mentioned, Angel Wu had worked hard in a voluntary capacity to keep on top of our grant fundraising. We achieved £40,000 in grant funding in 2024-25

Some main funders were listed, but notably The National Lottery Big Communities Fund whose very complex and competitive process gave us confidence when we received further 5-year funding.

We also receive generous donations and legacies that generated £13,000 in the period. We would like to thank especially the friends and families of Joy Shearman, Don Jones and Jennie Coope for their kind donations.

People taking part in events raised £9,000, including three riders in the Ride London 100-mile cycle ride, plus the Brighton marathon and the Guildford half-marathon

8. AOB

A number of attendees expressed their thanks to TALK for the work we do: the Deputy Mayor of Guildford, Peter Talbot, a friend of a Member, and Marianne Herne, Group Leader at Ashford commented on the satisfaction of seeing Members progress and thanked the other Volunteers at Ashford

9. Date of next AGM

To be confirmed and circulated