

Autism Bucks – AGM Meeting Minutes

Date:	27 Jul 2022
Time:	6.30 - 7.30pm
Venue:	Amersham Quakers Hall + Zoom

Attendees

Neil Cary – Chairperson
Martin Hollett - Treasurer
Paulette Hunn – Trustee, Operations
Sue Keating – Trustee, Secretary
Anup Jadhav – Trustee (via Zoom)
8 Members via Zoom
4 Members attending

Item	Agenda Item		Actions
1	Welcome and apologies	Apologies from Denise Leonard, Paula Strawbridge, David Wattleton Neil welcomed everyone and introduced the Trustees and ran through 'housekeeping' for the meeting.	
2	Chairperson's Report Copy Attached	Neil reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increase in the number of new members over the previous year • group meetings have been held face-to-face and via Zoom • The new Autism Bucks website launched • Finance report showing a healthy budget with new funding obtained and fundraising activities. 	
3	Reports by principal officers:	<p>Operational – Peer Social & Support groups – Paulette reported during Covid meetings had been held via Zoom and now more recently face-to-face sessions had started again in Aylesbury and Amersham, with new and old members returning, although the numbers are down on pre-covid numbers due to Zoom not being to everyone's taste and members still anxious about getting out and about. Paulette stressed we want to make the face-to-face sessions as comfortable as possible and urged members to come along.</p> <p>Summer Activity Programme – Sue reported on the newly put together diary of activities for 2022, thanks to funding received from the Rothschild Foundation. The programme offers members a chance to experience several different</p>	

		<p>activities in a group setting with likeminded people. The activities include: Open Air swimming session; trip on a canal boat with fish & chips after; a visit to a farm to walk with alpacas, followed by a picnic; an evening bowling and go karting and pizza after; also group sessions offering 'wellbeing' tips and advice, a board game session with lunch. There are plans for a festive Christmas meeting with food.</p> <p>Awareness Programme – Paulette reported with funding from Bucks County Council we were able to put on Awareness Sessions delivered by various speakers via Zoom, the sessions have now been put on our YouTube channel. There are more sessions planned with professionals talking and sharing their work. Again, it is hoped to put these sessions on YouTube. Paulette shared the successful talk given by some of our female members to the Women's Institute, who are looking at 'Female Autistic Diagnosis' – in order to raise awareness.</p> <p>Website and Social Media – Neil reported the new website was now much more interactive and informative. The website has generated a lot of new members. Neil thanked Simon Stiel for his sterling work on updating our Twitter page, which now has an increased following, he also thanked Paulette for managing our Facebook page and keeping it up to date and relevant. Neil asked members to contribute to the website with any new ideas and sharing their stories.</p> <p>Treasurer's Report and Accounts Examination – Martin confirmed the accounts have been audited and approved by a professional. Copy attached. Martin reported income for the period had come from the Rothschild Foundation funding and some fund-raising events. Martin thanked Denise for her huge input to the 'March in March' event which was very successful. The main expenses are the meeting venues, IT and social media, Awareness Programme and Activities Programme.</p> <p>Martin announced he would be stepping down as Treasurer due to pressure of his other commitments but would remain as a Trustee. Neil and the Trustees thanked Martin for all his hard work over the years as Treasurer.</p> <p>Question from the floor: a member asked if we had considered bidding for National Lottery Funding? Martin replied, he wasn't sure we would be able to spend more funding, due to the Covid shutdown we had surplus funds, and not enough Trustees to manage it.</p>	
4	Appointment of Trustees and Principal Officers	Neil proposed the following: Chairperson – Neil Cary Treasurer (interim) – Neil Cary	

		Secretary – Sue Keating Trustee – Paulette Hunn Trustee – Denise Leonard Trustee – Paula Strawbridge Trustee – Martin Hollett Trustee – Anup Jadhav Those present at the meeting approved.	
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5	Members Proposed Resolutions	None received	
6	Any Other Business	A member advised he was in contact with Autism Berkshire and would share any useful information. Neil thanked member.	
7	Closing Remarks	Neil said it had been a year since he joined Autism Bucks and he was very proud to be associated with the charity. He thanked everyone for attending.	