

# UK Council on Deafness

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the Resource Centre, London, at 1230 pm on Wednesday 9th December 2009.

### Present:

#### *Trustees:*

Susan Daniels	NDCS	Chair
Katherine Phipps	RNID	Vice Chair
Brian Archbold	Ear Foundation	Treasurer
John Adams	VODG	
Lorraine Gailey	Hearing Concern/Link	
Steve Matthews	Delta	
Bryan Sheppard	BID	
Paul Tomlinson	NCIUA	

#### *Member Organisations and Affiliates:*

Sue	Brown	Sense
Geoff	Brown	TAG
Sarah	Buchanan	Thomas Pocklington-Trust
Susan	Cipin	Jewish Deaf Association
Jackie	Claydon	North Wales Deaf Association
Mischa	Cooke	DCAL
Frances	Dewhurst	Cambridge CAMTAD
Sheila	Donovan	Age Concern and Help the Aged
Liz	Duncan	Sense
Sophie	Dunnell	Action for Deafness
Melissa	Echalier	RNID
Jim	Edwards	Signature
Tom	Fenton	RAD
Nikola	Fieldhouse	Deafblind UK
Ian	Ford	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
Ken	Hallsworth	Deafblind Scotland
Jacqui	Ide	SAVI
Lynn	Jackson	STAGETEXT
Liz	Jones	Hampshire Deaf Association
Amanda	Kenny	West Norfolk Deaf Association
Jon	Lambert	Hi Kent
Richard	Lucas	Action for Blind People
Joff	McGill	Sense
Steve	Powell	Signhealth
Jane	Priestley	North Wales Deaf Association
David	Rowan	East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre
Sara	Scanlon	Association of Lipspeakers
Deepa	Shastri	STAGETEXT

Peter	Shaw	DeafVision
Julie	Turner	Tri UK Ltd
Mark	Ward	Deafness Support Network
Katie	Willis	Action for Deafness
Anne	Worsfold	Cued Speech Association UK

Mr Chris Bain – formerly our Chief Executive – attended by invitation as an observer, as did Clare Long.

### **Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to UKCoD fifteenth AGM, and also thanked everyone for supporting the day's Conference. She introduced the other Trustees, and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Mr John Brennan - a UKCoD Trustee, and from Mrs Ruth Myers – a former Trustee.

### **Minutes of previous AGM.**

The Minutes of the fourteenth AGM, held in Birmingham on Thursday 6th November 2008, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

### **Matters Arising**

There were no outstanding matters arising from the previous Minutes.

### **Elections to the UKCoD Trustee Board**

The Chairman announced that there had been one valid nomination of a new Trustee, and thence that Mr Joff McGill was duly elected to serve as a Trustee for the next 3 years.

### **Financial Report**

The Chairman then invited our Treasurer Brian Archbold to present the Financial Report. The Accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting, and additional copies could be requested by EM. They had been signed off by our Registered Auditors, and deposited both with Companies House and with the Charity Commission,

Brian confirmed that 2008/2009 had been a very difficult year for UKCoD, and that we had ended the year with a substantial deficit on our General Fund. He explained that there had been two main factors in this:

Firstly the earlier decision to take on the ownership of Forest Books Ltd had turned out to be disastrous from a financial point of view. During the year the Trustees had decided that UKCoD had no alternative but to sell the Company, and we had been forced to recognise an overall loss of about £35,000 on this transaction as part of its

2008/2009 Accounts. [He also explained that whereas UKCoD's financial year normally ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March, the Trustees had decided to extend the 2008/2009 Accounts to cover a 13 month period ending on 30<sup>th</sup> April, so as to allow the Accounts to show the effects of this transaction, and thence give members a realistic view of the financial situation. The Trustees intended to revert to the normal 31<sup>st</sup> March year end for the 2009/2010 Accounts.]

Secondly over the past three years there had been a steady decline in our Income – primarily as a result of various Government grants coming to an end – and a steady increase in our expenditure. The loss in 2008/2009 of the income we had previously derived from the provision of Secretariat services to the BSMHD had accelerated this trend, and several of the last few Conferences had lost money rather than contributed to our finances.

In the first few weeks of 2009 the Trustees had become aware that these adverse trends had reached crisis point, and that urgent corrective action was needed. Firstly we had relinquished our offices at Westwood Park, although we continue to have a postal address there. Secondly the Trustees had concluded that the Chief Executive post was not supportable on our present income, hence they had very reluctantly decided that Chris Bain would have to be made redundant. Our remaining staff were now working from home. [Brian and Susan both paid tribute to Chris's efforts in the short time he had been with us, and to the ongoing commitment in very difficult circumstance shown to UKCoD by Clare Long and Roger Hewitt.]

Over the last few months the Trustees had made substantial personal effort to identify alternative sources of funding, for example Cochlear Europe have agreed to be a Gold sponsor for a 12 month period. Looking forwards it was unlikely that we would clear the deficit in the coming financial year, but the Trustees hoped that during 2010/2011 the deficit will be cleared and we can start to rebuild UKCoD's finances.

Note: electronic copies of the slides used to illustrate Brian's presentation can be supplied on request.

### **Re-appointment of Auditors**

It was proposed by the Treasurer and agreed that "The Executive Committee are authorised to appoint a firm of Registered Auditors to examine the Accounts 2009/2010, their remuneration to be approved by the Executive Committee."

### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman confirmed that 2008/2009 had been a traumatic year for UKCoD, and thanked all the Trustees for the exceptional efforts they had put into keeping UKCoD running and identifying a recovery plan in the absence of a full time Chief Executive. She then referred to UKCoD's formal objectives, and noted the substantial progress which had been made [or was expected in the next few months] against them. The conference programme had been revitalised, and our work to support the APPG on Deafness, on CRB checks, and on the operation of the OFV grant system had all been maintained.

She emphasised that the Trustees were keen to ensure that they were delivering the activities that the members wanted, and had thence set up an electronic membership survey to allow members to tell the Trustees what they wanted UKCoD to do for them. The full results would be considered by the Trustees in the New Year, but she was pleased to report that there had already been 62 replies to the survey, and that the responses were overwhelmingly positive. 84% of replies said that UKCoD's campaigning role is important or very important, 89% said that UKCoD was needed, and 88% said that UKCoD's ability to represent all aspects of deafness and create a level playing field across the sector was important. These results confirmed to the Board that UKCoD is a needed organisation, and therefore well-worth trying to secure going forwards. Over 70% of our membership have already renewed their membership of UKCoD for the current year. Over the coming months the Trustees hoped to engage a consultant to help them develop a new business plan, for which activity the RAD had very kindly offered to provide financial support.

### **Any Other Business**

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at approximately 1310. The Trustees would be available over lunch to answer any questions of for other informal discussions.