

Action on Disability Annual General Meeting 2019

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 26th November 2019 at St Paul's Church Hammersmith

1. Welcome

Victoria Brignell (Chair) welcomed everyone to AoD's AGM and 40-year anniversary celebration.

Andy Slaughter (MP, Hammersmith) spoke about AoD describing a proactive organisation which deserves a huge amount of praise.

84 members and 21 supporters attended this evening.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mike Gannon
Mustafa Karim
Cllr Bora Kwon

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on 9th October 2018

The minutes for the previous AGM were approved and accepted as a correct record.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair drew attendees' attention to the recently published AoD Impact Report 2019 that fully explained what AoD had achieved during 2018-19. The Chair also made announcement on the new revamped AoD website that was recently re-launched. She thanked the volunteers, staff and trustees, without whose work AoD could not exist.

5. Treasurer's presentation of the audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019

Peter Harden (Treasurer) presented the accounts for 2018-19. Income this year from local government is down but charities and foundations have helped make up for it. He thanked John Lyon's Charity and Dr Edwards & Bishop King's for their support. He also thanked David Buxton for managing the finances successfully. Most of the funds are unrestricted

which helps maintain flexibility and AoD has 2.2 months of funding set aside against a target of three months. This year will be challenging because of losing four supported employment contracts. The tough decision was also made not to go ahead with the Advocacy tender because AoD could not make it work. The procurement of new Independent Living Service (Direct Payments) contract is better news. The Treasurer appealed for support over the next few months as AoD tries to protect services during a challenging time.

From the floor: Baroness Rosie Wilkins asked about the absence of administrative and management costs in the summarised accounts. David Buxton (AoD CEO) explained there is a detailed breakdown of the management costs in the full audited accounts, although 13% management charge on each project / service fully covered the management cost, thus showing the bottom line as zero.

The accounts were approved.

6. Election of Trustees

Mike Gannon, Ramona Williams and David Isaacs, who are already serving as co-opted trustees, were voted in by the members.

7. Special Announcements – AoD 40th Year Celebration

The Chair appealed to members to support AoD's appeal to raise £100,000 to fit out the new headquarters.

David Isaac introduced a performance by AoD Youth Group's Soundz which included "the 40-year song" written especially for the anniversary.

Speeches were given by Jane Wilmot and Tara Flood, after which members were invited to share their memories of HAFAD and AoD.

8. Votes of Thanks

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and encouraged members to contact her or David Buxton to share their thoughts and ideas on AoD.