Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

AGM Meeting Minutes

Date: 26/02/2025

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Venue: Burges Salmon, One Glass Wharf, Bristol, BS2 0ZX

Interpreters: Adrian Bailey, Freya McLuckie and Moira Jackson

Live Captions: Karen Pritchard and Susanne Willdig

Chair: Justin Smith

Minutes: Daisy Williams

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

1.1 Justin Smith officially opened AGM at 18:45 and welcomed attendees.

1.2 49 attendees present at AGM.

1.3 Apologies from: Phillip Burnett

2. **Approval of Minutes taken: 25th October 2023**

2.1 For the purposes of the AGM, all attendees present are members of CfD. There are over 15 attendees which makes the AGM quorate and the AGM can proceed.

2.2 The CfD trustees have approved the meeting minutes from 25th October 2023 as accurate and the CfD members accepted the meeting minutes.

3. **Chair's Report**

a) <u>2022 – 2023</u>

3.1 Justin talked through the 2022 – 2023 Chair's Report including staffing and trustee changes, CfD achievements and projects and services.

3.2 CfD is represented in a number of meetings including the Bristol Equality Network, Disability Equality Commission, Bristol Deaf Health Partnership, NHS Trusts Accessible Information Standards steering groups. These meetings cover many topics such as employment, education, transport, housing etc.: Justin invited CfD members to attend some of these meetings to have their voices represented.

b) 2023 – 2024

3.3 Justin talked through the 2023 – 2024 Chair's Report including staffing and trustee changes, CfD achievements and projects and services.

3.4 Questions:

Q1: £28,000 from South Gloucester Council - is that from 2022/23?
Justin confirmed that the South Gloucestershire project is an ongoing project and the money is being well spent, there will be ongoing spending in the South Gloucestershire project. The funds received from South Gloucestershire Council were at the very end of 2023 and activities started in April 2024.

3.5 Hilary Sutherland congratulated Justin and CfD for their work as South Gloucestershire Council offered very little for Deaf people. Their Equipment Service is terrible and not Deaf-friendly, and the changes recently have been remarkable. Raising awareness and training their staff has been wonderful.

4. Annual Accounts

4.1 Justin Smith talked through the 2022 – 2024 Accounts presentation.

4.2 CfD need to think about fundraising: Justin invited attendees to bring forward fundraising ideas to CfD.

4.3 Questions:

Q2: Legacies in 2022 – 2023, it appears that in 23-24 there were no legacies. Is there a strategy to increase legacies in financial years going forward?
Justin confirmed that you can't anticipate legacies, and they are difficult to plan for. CfD will continue to put their presence out there in the hope of pulling in more legacies. CfD will create a legacy pack.

5. Update CfD Trustees

a) Constitution Change

5.1 Justin Smith went through the CfD Trustees, including new trustees and trustee resignations. Two trustees will be resigning: Gill Behenna and Frank Evason.

5.2 Claire Wickham thanked Gill Behenna for her time and enthusiasm as a CfD trustee on behalf of all the trustees and presented Gill Behenna with flowers and wished her a long and happy retirement.

5.3 Constitution amendment: currently the constitution says any person who retires as a charity trustee who has served for 2 consecutive terms of 3 years cannot be reappointed but can come back after a year. This is a very short period and CfD suggests that it should be 3 consecutive terms of 3 years before a trustee has to step down.

5.4 Questions:

Q3: 3 terms of 3 years, that's 9 years as a trustee and there's a risk in terms of permanence. It feels too long. I think 6 years is enough for 1 trustee.
Justin went back to the previous presentation slide to show that lots of new trustees have been appointed. CfD can always change the constitution back to 2 terms of 3 years if the 3 terms of 3 years are not working.

Q4: We need more background information – how often are meetings? What's involved in being a trustee?
Justin confirmed that the trustees meet every 6-8 weeks. This is because CfD has a lot of new trustees. The change in constitution will help with CfD's stability as older trustees will be able to be retained to pass their knowledge onto newer trustees.

5.5 No members voted in favour of not amending the constitution. The amendment was passed and the constitution amended.

5.6 Justin announces that the AGM has now closed at 20:00.

6. Guest Speaker: Ciaran O'Breen – 'Performing at Bristol Old Vic – my acting journey"

Ciaran O'Breen is a deaf, Bristol-based actor, workshop facilitator, and BSL guide. Most recently, he played Captain Chatter in Wonder Boy at Bristol Old Vic and on the UK tour. He is a finalist for an Offies award for his performance.

6.1 Ciaren O'Breen talked through his presentation "Performing at Bristol Old Vic – my acting journey".

7. Open Forum

7.1 Justin Smith thanked all of those in attendance for attending the AGM.

Meeting closed.