



Guernsey Disability Alliance

Minutes of 1st Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Guernsey Disability Alliance took place on Wednesday 29th April 2009 at The Ron Short Centre.

Apologies

Nick Humphries, Jackie Tebbutt, Aindre Reece Sheerin, Jenny Browning, Peter Keeling

Present

17 members attended and three visitors. See separate sheet for list.

AGENDA

1. **Chairman's report.** The Chairman asked that the minutes of the Special General Meeting held on April 30th be formally ratified. N.B. These minutes were accepted at the May meeting and have formed the basis of the working profile of the GDA throughout the year. Proposed Rob Platts Seconded Dave Purdy. Agreed unanimously. Chairman's Report: see separate sheet.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** As the Treasurer was not present this report was given by the Chairman. The account has been inactive.
3. **Vote on proposed changes to clauses 5, 8 and 14 of the constitution of the Guernsey Disability Alliance (see attached notes).** All amendments were accepted unanimously.
4. **Election of Chairperson.** At this point the V Chairman Dave Purdy paid tribute to the retiring Chairman. Rob Platts was congratulated on his year in office and the tireless way in which he has worked to progress the GDA. On a personal note Dave Purdy explained that in his opinion this had been the most encouraging year he had experienced in 40 years of campaigning. Shelaine Green presented Rob Platts with a small gift and asked members to sign a card. Dave Purdy proposed Shelaine Green as Chairperson. Seconded Wendy Beaven. Agreed unanimously.

Shelaine Green was duly elected and formally accepted the position and chaired the rest of the meeting. She emphasised that there will be no change in direction and she will work closely with R Platts.

5. ***Election of Vice Chair.*** Dave Purdy agreed to stand for re-election. Proposed Beryl Vaudin. Seconded Terry Dowinton. Agreed unanimously.

6. Election of Treasurer

Nick Humphries agreed to stand for re-election. Proposed Rob Platts. Seconded Jenny Hooper. Agreed unanimously

7. Election of Hon. Secretary

Wendy Beaven did not stand for re-election. Shelaine Green thanked her on behalf of the GDA for all her hard work during the year. Jenny Hooper and Catherine Hall both agreed to stand. After a discussion on the ways in which both could contribute to the Executive Committee it was agreed that Jenny Hooper would withdraw from the election and would attend Exec meetings as an ex officio non-voting member. Catherine Hall was duly elected unanimously. Proposed D Purdy. Seconded John Gollop.

8. ***Election of Non Exec. Chair.*** (Subject to amended constitution – see notes below) Rob Platts was proposed Shelaine Green, Seconded W.Beaven. Agreed unanimously.

9. AOB.

W.Beaven asked for charities that have input from Carers to contact the HIEG office with ideas on how to complement existing facilities, as it was envisaged that the present facilities could be expanded. Input from carers was essential to ensure that resources are not misdirected.

It was also important to acknowledge the contribution and commitment of the Executive Team who had worked very hard during the year. Although Jackie Tebbutt and Nick Humphries had not been able to attend the meeting the contribution made by them was noteworthy.

The concept of charities working together to assist one another in the delivery of services was one of the essential ingredients. The HIEG has been pleased to facilitate the work of the GDA. W Beaven felt that the involvement of the GSPD Ron Short should be minuted as the Society had

allowed the use of their facilities for meetings. The cost implication of hiring a similar venue would have been prohibitive.

Shelaine Green (Chairperson) gave a brief resume on the results of the request to introduce a full wheelchair service. Deputies John Gollop and Roderick Matthews also contributed to the discussion.

In conclusion the Chairman commented that the GDA would be working closely with the States Disability Champion, Deputy Jane Stephens.

The meeting closed 9pm.

Guernsey Disability Alliance - Proposed Constitutional Changes

The following list of proposed changes to the constitution of the Guernsey Disability Alliance is hereby brought to the attention of the membership. The adoption of these proposed changes will be subject to vote by members at the Annual General meeting on Wednesday 29th April.

Summary of proposed resolutions

First Resolution: It is proposed by the elected officers that the constitution be amended to allow individual membership. This change is proposed in order to encourage and facilitate greater participation by disabled people and in order that disabled people not represented by an existing member organisation, can have a voice. It is proposed that the present clauses 5, 8 and 14 are replaced by the clauses below.

Second Resolution: In a move designed to strengthen direct representation of disabled people at executive level, it is proposed that a new Executive Officer position be introduced. An amendment to clause 14 is therefore proposed to include the position of "User Group Officer". The nominated officer will be chosen by the GDA user group itself and the appointment will be confirmed by vote of GDA members.

Third Resolution: It is further proposed that clause 14 be amended as below in order to allow the election of a Non Executive Chairman. The intention of the amendment is to allow the retiring Executive Chairman to remain involved at a distance and to be able to continue to offer guidance and advice to the elected officers.

Fourth Resolution: It is proposed that the GDA membership allow (subject to notice) the election of Executive officers at meetings other than

the Annual General Meeting in order to be able to fill posts which remain unfilled at an AGM or which become vacant during the year.

Proposed Clauses (detail)

5. Membership is open to individuals and to organisations representing the interests of disabled people in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

5.1 All memberships are subject to approval by the executive.

5.2 Each member organisation may be represented at meetings of the GDA by a maximum of two people and these people will be referred to as Member Reps.

5.3 Individual members and Member Reps. are each entitled to one vote on each resolution put to a vote by the executive.

5.4 If a Member Rep. is unable to attend a meeting of the GDA he or she may arrange a substitute representative for that meeting and will use best endeavours to inform the Secretary of such replacement prior to the meeting.

5.5 Member Reps, or their nominated substitute, must be present in order to vote at a meeting. Members cannot vote both as a Member rep (or nominated substitute) and an individual member. Individual members cannot nominate a substitute. People who may be represented by a member organisation may also join and vote as an individual member.

8. The Secretary must keep a register of names and addresses of the member organisations and names and contact details of individual members and Member Reps. This register must be made available to any member upon request.

14.1 At the Annual General Meeting, the following appointments shall be made: -

The Executive consisting of:

- Executive Officers;
- (i) Chairman
- (ii) Vice-Chairman
- (iii) Hon. Treasurer
- (iv) Hon. Secretary
- (v) User Group Officer

And membership (hereafter referred to as “Members”) consisting of

(vi) Member organisations.

(vii) Individual members

14.2 The above-mentioned officers (i to v above) shall be elected for a period of one year, but all are eligible for re-election. At least 50% of the elected Executive Officers will be disabled people.

14.3 The nominated User Group Officer will be selected by the members of the GDA user group and the appointment will be confirmed by majority vote of GDA members.

14.3 In addition to the Executive Officers above, the members may elect a non-executive Chairman.

14.4 If an Executive Officer post remains unfilled at an AGM or becomes vacant during the year, election of new officers may be carried out at an ordinary meeting of the GDA, so long as the membership have been given twenty eight days notice of such election.