



Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Members

Guernsey Disability Alliance (the "GDA") (Company Registered No: 51102)
(Registered Charity No: CH41)

Meeting of the AGM on Monday February 13th 2023 at Les Cotils.at 18:00.

Board Members Present in Person:

Arrun Wilkie	Director
Carol Le Page	Social Policy Director
Rob Harnish	Director, Transport Representative and Chair of the meeting

Board Members Present Online

Toni de Kooker	
Jane Wonnacott	Hon. Secretary

Those Present in Person

Les Banks	Ron Short Centre / Unltd
Karen Blanchford	GROW
Steve Birch	Ron Short Centre / Unltd
Rose Eaton	Mercury
Jenny Flower	Member
Susie Gallienne	Wigwam
John Gollop	Living Streets & States Deputy, ESS
Nikki Ioannon-Dronshiotis	GET
David Inglis	Age Concern
Rachael Mauger	NAS
Michael Nichols	Alzheimer's Society
Mike Read	GDA Exec: Health and Social Care Representative
Liz Sweet	GDA Exec
Donna Thorn	Mercury
Lisa Vidamour	Go Momo
Andrew Warren	Autism Guernsey

Members Present Via Live Video Link

Without anyone posting in the chat to identify themselves the GDA was unable to know the names of those who attended online. If we need them to do so in the future, we can make a point of referencing at the meeting and posting in the chat ourselves, encouraging people to identify themselves. The platform used to host the livestream provides some information which may be of use.

- 28 unique viewers of the broadcast that evening
- A maximum of 9 people watched the broadcast at any one time
- Viewers watched from Guernsey, Jersey & UK (Birmingham, Stoke-on-Trent & Manchester)

Note that not all those on the video link were recorded as attending.

Minutes

Item	Minute			Action
1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We started with the film of the States from 2022 when the Ordinance was agreed. Rob Harnish took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. 			
2.	Chair of the AGM & Quorum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rob Harnish opened the formal AGM and the assembly was quorate. 			
3.	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lateness Karen Blanchford Toni de Kooker Chair Designate & Hon. Treasurer, Catherine Hall, Vice Chair, Rob Platts, and Gill Evans Jane Wonnacott for being present remotely. 			
4.	Minutes From Previous Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 16th February 2022 were taken as read. All those present approved. 			
5.	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no matters arising 			
7.	Matters Requiring Ordinary Resolutions The resolution to appoint Toni de Kooker as Hon. Chair was approved. The annual accounts were provided by Toni with a recorded overview commentary that was played to those present in person and online.			
		Ordinary Resolution	Document	Presented by
	(i)	THAT Toni De Kooker be elected as Chair of the Company Proposed by Jane Wonnacott Seconded by Carol Le Page IT IS RESOLVED by the members herein present in person and via video link that Toni de Kooker be appointed as Chair of the Company.		Chair
	(ii)	THAT the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022, together with the Directors'	Accounts prepared for presentation at the meeting	Chair

Item	Minute			Action
		<p>Report on those accounts, be received.</p> <p>IT IS RESOLVED by the members here present in person and via video link, that the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022, together with the Directors' report are received.</p>		
6.	<p>Finance Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TdK was unable to attend but recorded her statement and review of the finances for 2022. The full transcript is also available with these minutes. • She started by saying that, while the accounts were there to be received by the meeting, they had yet to be reviewed by an independent qualified accountant. • She thanked Chris Le Page for his chairmanship up until February 2022, she thanked Arrun Willkie for his long-term tenure as a director and she thanked Karen Blanchard, the outgoing Partnership Director for her 7 years of work in raising awareness of disability and aiding the passing of the ordinance. • Finally, she thanked Phil Smith for being Chairman between February and December 2022 • She thanked the executive. • Over the year we have improved governance on our finances including bookkeeping on Zero and Focus HR for HR payments. We are confident that our processes and procedures are best practice. • In terms of the financial statement, all restricted income has to be held as a liability as we must pay it back if we cannot use it for the purpose for which it was intended. Unrestricted income, however, can be spent as required. The accounts have treated assets as being depreciated. • Do not have such a surplus as prior years due to campaigning and advertising during the time of the ordinance. • Our balance sheet is overall more favourable in terms of assets. • She thanked those who have donated through Just Giving and for the Lloyds Foundation of the Channel Islands and SIF in particular for their financial support. <p>The accounts were received by all those present.</p> <p>It was pointed out that anyone with any questions is welcome to ask Toni about them prior to them being reviewed by an independent accountant.</p>			
8.	<p>Partnership Director's report and presentation</p> <p>Carol Le Page provided a presentation on SharePoint and thanked those present for their campaigning over the years and the support given, in particular on the steps of the Royal Court at the start of the debate on the</p>			

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>legislation. It was disappointing that it required this type of campaigning to get it through the States and for Deputies to realise and understand its importance.</p> <p>We live in politically uncertain times but believe that we are on the road to better future protection of our rights.</p> <p>Others such as Liberate and support for religious beliefs was also invaluable in getting the legislation through.</p> <p>There was relief and then celebration and joy that we were successful after a 15 year campaign.</p> <p>At the end of 2021 there was a tender for training on the Prevention of Discrimination Ordinance to be done and The Consortium was put together to provide education to businesses, organisations and those that need it in terms of delivery of goods and services, landlords, education and employment. All are recorded so one can catch up on the training. It is highly recommended that people attend the training which is very practical and is well attended. Karen Blanchford was part of the Consortium.</p> <p>The GDA helped to hold an event for Global Accessibility Awareness Day; improved access at Petit Bot, and helped organise the Saffery Rotary accessible leg of the charity walk.</p> <p>Access for All has been absorbed by the GDA.</p> <p>The Access Audit course for access and practical design is a good course for architects, engineers, builders and property owners. It is a practical course run twice in 2022 and was full. We will run it again this year, potentially twice. There are now well over 50 auditors trained – Jersey has two who came over to Guernsey for the course.</p> <p>Purple Tuesday is the first Tuesday in November and we raised awareness for the library and passing trade at the Chamber of Commerce. This is about the Purple Pound.</p> <p>We also have been developing a good relationship with GoMomo who we had used to promote AccessAble guide for Guernsey linking to the Tennerfest restaurant promotion. We are likely to use Go Momo ore on the social media side, as this role was previously undertaken by Karen.</p> <p>The Governors Fete and Volunteer Week was another time for promotion and to say thank you to our volunteers.</p> <p>As part of the lead into the Ordinance going to the States we were also instrumental in having the Universal Declaration of Human Rights translated into Guernesiais. Thanks to Jan Marquis for all his hard work in undertaking the translation.</p>	

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Sea Donkey (Adrian Sarchet) has raised money and awareness for improving accessibility at La Valette pools. He provided a talk at our international day of person with disabilities/ Christmas Party/Karen's leaving party.</p> <p>Mike Read then spoke to address the meeting and highlighted the Health report on the GDA website. There are implications for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redistribution of Family Allowance and reduction of charges for those over 18 means that children visiting A&E are in force • Reciprocal Health Agreement is in force – there has been no feedback as yet. Good for those travelling with disabilities or managing healthcare going off island • A review of Section 10 is being undertaken by HSC and a report has been prepared in response by the GDA. The Equipment Aids and Adaptions report has been published on the GDA website. • Surgical waiting lists are growing as part of living with legacy of Covid. We may need to look at other options beyond relying on Guernsey capacity only. • Patient charges are for a wider variety of health services. The primary healthcare review may bring forward the need for compulsory health insurance which is like another form of tax. It is hoped that the GDA will be consulted. HSC favour those who are better off. • Organ donation is not an opt out rather than an opt in situation. • NICE technological appraisals (TAs) project is continuing this year. It is brought up in the tax debate as being expensive but arguably they are but not as expensive as forecast. We need to gather evidence of this before the States make any decisions or roll back on previous decisions. • Cancer patients were being charged if they had to visit the Emergency Department when Bulstrode was shut. HSC are now reviewing charges in 2023. Again, we hope the GDA will be consulted about this and what people can afford. • MR will continue to work with HSC and Peter Roffey at ESC. He will do horizon scanning and feedback to individuals. We appreciate individual stories, where available. We need to have more people in work. <p>John Gollop said that we need to be aware that things are strange at the moment. In the past few weeks there have been threats to cut costs by the States. The GDA will need to make a strong case to make sure that we do not go back to the 1980s and greater vigilance is needed</p> <p>Rob said that health and transport issues effect all of us. There has been some resistance due to finance and progress has stalled but we have a plan with a third party to provide reliable transport if investment was available. He would like more evidence in order to push his case.</p>	

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Catherine was not present to give her report and an update on the SEND review which has been put on hold pending the new Education Law. There is a consultation out on the Education Law soon, but no date yet.</p> <p>There is a consultation on capacity.</p> <p>CLP thanked the three Social Policy reps for their hard work.</p>	
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was no additional business</p>	
10.	<p>Date of next AGM</p> <p>February 2024</p>	

The official business of the AGM finished at 18:55. This was followed by a talk from Rose Eaton from Mercury and a workshop on GDA Strategy.

Notes on the Presentation by Rose Eaton

Rose Eaton from Mercury gave a presentation following the St John Ambulance decision to pull out of providing a healthcare shop. The transition started when the change was announced. Mercury have been asked to provide support, which they will, subject to consultation and information on those with Income Support to pay for their equipment.

Next Tuesday all information should be available. They were already supporting three care homes and are now helping and providing care homes and members of the public with the right product or similar.

Today's news that St John has sold the business to Guardian Medical in Jersey was unknown by Mercury but they are going to continue as planned for the time being so that no one is let down.

Hire of equipment is new to Mercury but they anticipate that prices will be favourable but this is under discussion. A decontamination unit is also necessary.

Mike Read said that St John had left Mercury to pick up the pieces so bringing in Guardian is disappointing when we are all trying to provide services that are of benefit to the community. Communication is letting our community down.

Mercury will send a newsletter out every month to all those whom they supply and that should help keep people informed. Without information from Health and Income Support, it is currently difficult but the CEO will come over next week to hold conversations for people in Guernsey.

Mercury does catering and medical and they are holding a Trade Fair with a lot of suppliers on 29th March 10:00 – 16:00 at St Pierre Park. There will be devices to review and try.

Liz thinks that there is enough business for both Guardian and Mercury and competition is good.

John Gollop said that there needs to be a Spend to Save initiative by the States of Guernsey.

Rose said that no one gets help in their own home and they have to find the money (£2-3K) for hoists and other Home support devices. However, those who are in Care Homes have their pension taken off them and otherwise have all their needs met. Rose believes that those in their own home should also be supported.

Victoria Hospital said that they can help support those who have difficulties self-funding.

Carol thanked Rose for the interesting talk.

Transcript of Talk by Toni De Kooker on: Financial Statements for AGM on 13th February 2023

Good evening. Thank you for joining the meeting today.

My apologies for being unable to attend in person.

I appreciate that not everyone enjoys financial statements as much as I do, so I will try and make this as prompt as possible.

You should find within your papers for review, or online at your own leisure, a set of financial statements prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards 102 dated the 31st of December 2022.

It is important to note, prior to the commencement of this brief walkthrough, that the financial statements have not yet been reviewed by an independent accountant and will be done so before final approval. This gives you an opportunity to contact me with any queries and questions that you might have, which I'm happy to answer.

I'll begin by starting with my director's report and thank Chris Le Page who stepped down as Chair on the 17th of February 2022, and during this financial period. Chris made a valuable contribution to the Guernsey Disability Alliance and provided humongous momentum when it was most needed. Thank you, Chris.

Secondly, to those who stood down or are planning to stand down following this financial period. Aaron Wilkie, thank you for your very long tenure through which you have provided key strategic advice and direction for the Guernsey Disability Alliance over many years. And thirdly, to Karen who has done so much for us and continues to devote so much of her time to the wellbeing and recognition for all. Thank you for everything you've done for us, and the GDA Karen and all you continue to do for the community. Lastly, thank you to Phil Smith, who stepped down as chairman earlier this year. Despite his short time with us. Phil ensured that the GDA continued to function and fulfil its purpose and provided vital assistance in the campaign for passing of the anti-discrimination legislation in 2022. Thank you for your dedication.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the wider committee and the Executive Board for their assistance with my role as Treasurer and for the support they so willingly give.

Over the last year and a half, we collectively, as a team, have been working on the improvement of governance surrounding payments and that transparency to the Board regarding the current financial position being readily available at any given time. We made the decision in 2021 to start using the services of Focus HR Solutions to provide payroll services and began using a financial accounting software called Xero instead of bookkeeping on Excel. During the year 2022, we sought an independent accountant to review our financial statements, and we are now confident that our procedures and processes are best practice and continue to work on the improvement of transparency.

Moving on to the numerical part of the financial statements. I'll be jumping to page 5 which lists our income and expenditure for the year. The recognition and treatment of income can be found in note 3. But for the purposes of understanding, it is important to note that income that is restricted is only recognised once it has been spent. All income that is restricted initially sits as a liability to the GDA as we have an obligation to pay it back if we do not use it for its intended purpose. Therefore, restricted income presented in this income and expenditure statement is what we have spent on restricted income. However, it is recognised in the period that it's due to be received in.

The basis that we prepare these accounts is the accruals basis, which means the income and expenses are recognised in the period that they are due. Any income received in advance will be recognised as a liability and any payments made in advance will be recognised as an asset.

This gives us a more transparent idea of the financial position of the company, such as the position of the restricted income. During the period, we ran a number of courses which have increased our unrestricted income balance. This means that we had a higher surplus than in prior years. The large increases in marketing expenses are due to the increased need for campaigning and our attendance at events or sharing updates on social media and raising awareness of various occurrences.

Moving on to page 6 our balance sheet, you'll see that whilst we have a healthy cash balance, most of this is restricted and the unrestricted funds mostly relate to the income generated this year. We have a lower cash balance than last year, but our balance sheet overall isn't more favourable in terms of net assets since we have a higher unrestricted income position and therefore a lower liability to asset ratio.

The remainder of the financial statements provide you with a detailed breakdown of the relevant creditor and debtor positions and more details about how treatment of income is recognised which I've covered in my initial opening during our walkthrough. On page 5 details of our laptops and their depreciation can be found in note 6.

The final point I'd like to cover is note 7 and say thank you to those individuals who donated to just giving, thank you also to our major donators including Lloyds Bank and the Social Investment Fund who provided us with critical support this year and previous years.

Thank you all so much for listening, and I hope you enjoy the rest of the meeting.