

**Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting of Dingley's Promise
held at Shaw Social Club, Newbury
on 27th August 2017
Commencing 7pm**

In the Chair

Dave Ormrod

Attended:

See list attached

Apologies and Chairperson's welcome:

All Members and Supporters were invited this year, and a number of apologies were received; including our Treasurer, Ian Mackinder and Trustee Nick Richards.

Minutes of last AGM:

Minutes of the AGM held on 4th October 2016 were agreed as a true record, and were duly signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising – Referring to the “Looking Forward” section of last year's minutes

There were no matters arising.

Chairperson's Report

The Chair presented his report and key points highlighted were:

- 2016-17 has been a year of consolidation and taking stock of the charity, ensuring that the core structure is fit for purpose and resilient against external impact.
- However it is felt that the charity has not stood still; Learn Through Play sessions have seen a 29% increase and we have become more efficient, reducing our per hour session costs from £22.50 to £19.50. 60% of all of our transitions were to mainstream settings.
- The charity has embedded an Advisory Board, gaining support from experts in differing fields.
- The Chief Executive has worked hard to lobby the 30 hours entitlement to childcare for three and four year olds both on a local and national level.
- We have developed our training offer on-line to assist other professionals and practitioners in inclusion for children with SEND in the early years.
- We have received our 7th consecutive 'Outstanding' assessment from Ofsted across all of our Centres. The Chair congratulated West Berkshire on receiving their rating earlier in July 2017.

The Chair noted that not all had gone to plan:

- The charity has not yet broken into new area, even though we continue to try and are holding positive conversations.
- Our Providers Advisory Support Service (PASS) has reduced to focus on our own children moving onto more appropriate settings. On a positive note, this has initiated progress from Local Authority on funding delivery.
- We have not yet secured funding for a complete refit of our Reading Centre, but we do have funding to replace the kitchen.

The Chair highlighted the following for the charity's future:

- The Business Plan needs a review and re-tune.
- We will seek to extend services to reach many more families.
- The roll-out of our national training offer.
- Continue to lobby locally and nationally to ensure children with SEND are not disadvantaged.

Treasurer's Report and adoption of the latest set of accounts

The full set of accounts can be seen on the Dingley website:

<http://www.dingley.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Signed-Accounts-31-03-17.pdf>

The Chair presented the Treasurers Report and explained that the Charity had seen an overall increase in income in 2016-17, with a drop in Local Authority funding. This had come about from an increased ability to manage the Nursery Education Grant and an increased grant and fundraising income from various external run events and people taking on challenge events.

However the charity saw a financial year end of £33,000 deficit, which is an improved picture from the previous year of a £66,000 deficit. The Chair did note that it was the opinion of the Trustees that the Charity is still in a strong financial position and currently felt there was no risk to the organisation.

The Budget for 2017/18 has been set at £600,000, seeing an increase of £103,000 from last year. Over 70% of our expenditure is expected to be spent on salaries and we are anticipating more outings and workshops for children.

The accounts have been independently reviewed, signed by the Directors and submitted to Companies House. They will be provided to the Charities Commission as part of the annual return in September.

Re-election of Directors

The Chair requested for a Motion for Approval for the Directors Period of Office. A handout detailing the current procedure for the appointment of Directors and new proposed procedure for appointment and retirement was distributed to all in attendance.

The proposed procedure is that Directors can serve three years, from the point of ratification of their appointment at the AGM. This will replace the requirement of a third of Directors needing to step down at each AGM.

Lady Catherine Stevenson proposed the Motion and all in attendance voted to support the motion. There were no objections.

Thus, there were no Directors who stood for re-election at this AGM.

Any other business

There was no other Business to report.

Date of next year's AGM

The proposed date of next AGM, to be held in Wokingham, will be advised in due course.

Summary, thanks and close

Dave thanked his fellow Trustees, the CEO and the Dingley's Promise team; as well as everyone involved in volunteering, fund-raising or support for Dingley.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8pm

ATTENDEES

Dave Ormrod - Chair of Trustees
Lady Catherine Stevenson
Mary Baldwin - Trustee
Richard Cronin - Trustee
Allan Gibson - Trustee
Catherine McLeod - CEO
Mick Clements
Louise Farmer
Sarah Affleck
Abi Preston Rees
Aimee Read
Carol Clements
Helen Randall
Lucy Cullum and husband
Theresa Bowers
Pauline Walklett
Mr Walklett
Cllr Peter Lucy
Cllr David Fenn
Mrs Fenn
Grahame Mole
Christina Mole