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 Registered Charity No. 1100722

**Minutes of Autism Bedfordshire's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM)**  
 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 @ 7.00 to 9.00 pm  
 Rufus Centre, Flitwick

MEETING CALLED BY:

Board of Trustees: Lainey Miller (Chair), Jeff Bullied (Finance Director), Peter Scott, (Secretary), Bernadette Henderson, Paul Sutherland, Martin Williams and Philip Delafield

AGENDA ITEM	CONTENT NOTES
1. Welcome and Apologies	<p>Lainey Miller, on behalf of the trustees, welcomed all the attendees to Autism Bedfordshire's AGM.</p> <p>The attendees included AB members, non-members, practitioners and Jamie Knight who was our guest speaker for the evening.</p> <p>Lainey advised that the full Annual Report and flyers for the 2016/2017 Financial Year were available for everyone to read.</p> <p>Although Peter Scott had sent his apologies, all other trustees were in attendance and thus Lainey confirmed that we had a quorum to formally hold the AGM.</p>
2. Minutes of Last Meeting	<p>Minutes from the last AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were proposed by Cathi Grover and seconded by Joyce Scott and therefore Lainey confirmed that the minutes were approved.</p>
3. Matters Arising	<p>There were no matters arising.</p>
4. Review of the year April 2016 to March 2017 - Lainey Miller (Chair)	<p>Lainey gave a review of financial year 2016/2017. It has been another successful year for AB, with the charity seeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More children, young people and adults with autism being supported through our services</li> <li>• More adults gaining employment and more maintaining their employment</li> <li>• More parents trained than ever before</li> </ul> <p>Highlights:  <i>Children's Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More children and young people supported than last year</li> <li>• A staggering 275 parents attending the parent training courses we co-delivered with Jenny Wilson from the Child and Adolescents Mental Health Services – this far surpassed our expectations!</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Adult Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering more Social Groups countywide</li> <li>• New art, rowing and tennis sessions encouraged adults not using our core services to partake in social activities.</li> </ul> <p><i>Fundraising</i></p> <p>A fantastic year for our Fundraising Team and all our fabulous supporters – thanks to our three local authorities, independent grant-making trusts (both loyal and new), and especially every individual who has fundraised for or made a donation to us. This support in 2016-17 resulted in us covering our costs with a small surplus towards our reserves.</p> <p>Thankyous:</p> <p><i>Our Team</i></p> <p>Talented and dedicated staff and volunteers  Motivated and committed office team  Trustees volunteering over 100 hours annually  Your hard work makes our services as special as they are.</p> <p><i>Our Partners</i></p> <p>Across the voluntary and public sector  Working with you helps us to provide the best choices and quality we can.</p> <p><i>Our Members</i></p> <p>This is your charity  Your feedback helps us improve and such wonderful stories of your experiences help secure the funding to continue and grow.</p>
<p>5. Annual Report and Annual Accounts 2016/2017 - Jeff Bulled (Finance Director)</p>	<p>Lainey introduced Jeff Bulled, Finance Director who then delivered the Finance Report.</p>
<p>6. Proposal for Auditors – Jeff Bulled (Finance Director)</p>	<p>Garner Associates are our accountants and we have been happy with their performance in assisting the trustees to produce our accounts for the year. In the circumstances, it is usual to move to adoption of the existing accountants as Independent Examiner for the current financial year. However if for some reason there is to be a change of Independent Examiner, this can be arranged by the Board of Trustees during the coming year.</p> <p>Garner Associates were then proposed by Cathi Grover and seconded by Joyce Scott and consequently Andrew Russell of Garner Associates has been re-appointed as Independent Examiner.</p>
<p>7. Update on the Board of Trustees</p>	<p>We still have vacancies for new trustees and would ask anyone who is interested to contact the office to find out more – it is rewarding on so many levels!</p>
<p>8. Staff Changes</p>	<p><b>We were sorry to say goodbye to some staff during the year:</b></p> <p>Andrea Norfolk, Children’s Services Development Officer  Kerri Anderson, Children’s Services Development Officer  Ian Baguley, Employment Support Officer  Trudy Gray, Finance Officer</p>

	<p>Claire Thompson, Corporate Fundraiser  Amy Gavin-Birch, Luton LOAF Senior Team member  Claire Wilson, Luton LOAF Senior Team member  April Johnson, Biggleswade LOAF Senior Team member  Helen Lawman, Biggleswade LOAF Senior Team member</p> <p><b>We were delighted to welcome on board:</b></p> <p>Philip Delafield, Trustee  Lorraine Endersby, Employment Support Officer  Tom Carter, Children’s Services Development Officer  Debbie Haddow, Finance Officer  Alice Draper, Grants Officer  Katie Tavener, Biggleswade LOAF Senior Team Leader  Katie Kovalijova, Luton LOAF Team leader</p>
<p>9. Any Other Business Fundraising – Sarah Grimes, Corporate &amp; Community Fundraiser</p>	<p>Sarah highlighted the importance of fundraising to help fund the continuation of our services by presenting fundraising ideas, challenges, pledges and legacies.</p>
<p>10. Close AGM</p>	<p>Lainey declared that the AGM was now closed and thanked everyone for attending and supporting the charity.</p>
<p>Lainey Miller then introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Jamie Knight (Jamie &amp; Lion) who presented ‘Autistic Happiness’ – exploring what it means to be autistically happy through the lenses of identity, autonomy, employment and technology.</p>	