

# ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS AND ASSESSORS

## MINUTES OF TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Manchester Deaf Centre, Crawford House, Booth Street East,

Manchester M13 9GH

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015

### **1) Notice convening the meeting**

The meeting commenced at 10.30 a.m. with the Chair welcoming the members. Manchester Deaf Club Caretaker informed all present of health and safety issues.

The Chair explained the programme for the day and informed members that all members would receive CPD certificates, covering the day's workshops.

### **2) Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Penny Beschizza, Jacqueline Swinbourne, Charles Herd, Melinda Napier, Sarah Lawrence, Davina Merricks, Alan Murray, Joanne Thomson, Syvvia Symmonds, Jo Gardiner, Linda Day and Alison Bryan.

### **3) Minutes of twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting held at The City Lit on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014, had been sent to members prior to the meeting. There was one correction under point 6) Election of Officers to the Association, 'The full Executive Committee for the year 2013' should read '2014'. The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chair.

### **4) Chair's Report**

The Chair's report had been sent to members prior to the meeting. Emma Iliffe, Chair, picked out some of the key points from her report. The reintroduction of the newsletter had been a great success and a good way of keeping members up to date; along with ABSLTA's Facebook page. Emma gave a special welcome to one of ABSLTA's life members, Donald Goodhew (previously known as Desi Gabriel); acknowledging his valuable work as one of ABSLTA's newsletter editors. He had edited the newsletter for a period of ten years during the 1990s.

Emma also praised the dedication and hard work of Joanne Thomson who had decided to stand down from the committee after fifteen years of sterling work. She had been instrumental in setting up and running many training workshops

over the years, as well as giving her time and expertise to support the ABSLTA committee.

Emma announced that ABSLTA was in the process of commissioning a website designer to bring the website up to date; enabling online membership renewals and more opportunities for members to interact and support one another online.

Finally, Emma encouraged all members to add their ideas and suggestions to the evaluation form, to help the committee to respond positively to the needs of members.

#### **5) Association Accounts for the year 2014**

The Treasurer's report had been sent out to members prior to the AGM; together with the audited and approved accounts. The Treasurer said she was happy with the financial position of the Association and, after her presentation, explained in greater detail the situation regarding website fees. There had been a refund towards the end of the year so that, on balance, website fees remained similar to that of the previous year.

#### **6) Approval of Auditors**

The Association's auditor, Kevin Whalley, was accepted as the Association's auditor for the year 2015.

#### **7) Election of Officers and Committee of the Association**

Secretary: Penny Beschizza had resigned as Secretary at the end of 2014 for personal reasons.

Liz Brown, already a committee member, was proposed by Bob Buckley and seconded by Stuart Parkinson. No other nominations were received and, therefore, Liz was accepted unanimously as Secretary.

Joanne Thomson had previously announced her intention of stepping down from the committee after fifteen years.

#### Two committee members to be elected:

A secret ballot was carried out to fill the two vacant posts on the committee. The four candidates were:

1. Tessa Padden, proposed by Liz Brown and seconded by Gillian Stringer.
2. Nicola Nunn, proposed by Tessa Padden and seconded by Lesley Davidson,

3. Judith Kidd was proposed by Lisa Morley and seconded by Geraldine Davidson and
4. Sue Birkin was proposed by Robert Buckley and seconded by Charles Murphy.

Tessa Padden and Nicola Nunn received the highest number of votes and were welcomed to the committee. Judith and Sue were thanked for standing and could be co-opted for help with special events.

## **8) Motions**

Membership fees revision: Gillian Stringer proposed that the following membership fees be revised from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016:

- a. Full member (individual) - £25
- b. Affiliate member (organisation) - £60
- c. Associate member (trainee teachers and retired individuals) - £15

This motion was carried.

### Modernisation of Constitution:

Liz Brown, on behalf of the ABSLTA committee, proposed modernising the whole Constitution to reflect the current climate, including roles of committee members. All the proposed changes were sent to members before the AGM as part of the Agenda. All the proposed changes were agreed.

Signed ..... Chair Date .....