

Association of Carers Annual General Meeting 20010/11

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Jackson Hall, Portland Place Hastings
on Tuesday 6th September 2011 at 10.30.am.

Welcome: The Chairperson, Jenny Allen welcomed all.

1.a) Attendees: at the A.G.M, Jenny Allen, Joanne Oliver, Sue Palmer, Sarah Bleach, Alan Turner, Roger Parsons, Alison Purves, Eve Grimstead, Steven Clark, George Bunker, Ted Groves, Roy Pepper, Liz Garvin, Patricia Delaney and Doug Withers.

1.b) Apologies: D. Sinden, Valerie Luff, Rosemary Kent and Verna Lodder.

2.a) Minutes of the previous meeting: These were circulated and accepted as correct. Proposed Alan Turner, seconded Alison Purves.

2.b) Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

3. Reports and Accountants: Jenny Allen read out the Chair person's report written by Eve Grimstead who retired from the committee at the end of March 2011.

Eve had written that the CIO had still not become a legal entity but a draft CIO Constitution had been written in preparation and that as soon as it was legal we would be changing status. The Association has grown providing even more services to more and more Carers within the community; therefore increasing the numbers of volunteers required meaning recruiting volunteers is at an all time high. The Association feel the need to consolidate for a period of time before the next push of expansion. This has been helped by the development of a Vision, Mission Statement, Values and Objectives. Of course with this level of growth comes a need for further funding from a diverse range of sources.

Jo Oliver read the Treasurer's report written by Ted Groves on behalf of the committee as Pauline Heppel had needed to step down in May due to other commitments.

The Balance Sheet of the Association shows a strong position similar to last year with Funds totaling £70223 compared with £70547. There was, for the Year, a small excess of Expenditure over Income of £324 of which £3696 was attributable to Restricted Funds and covered by contributions received after the year end.

Salary costs for the year increased due to staff changes involving extra responsibilities.

The move to Jackson Hall in August 2011 will result in a reduction in the Association's overall Establishment Costs which is welcome in the present financial climate.

Copies of the audited accounts are available on request.

Sue Palmer read out her Service Manager's report:

At the end of March we were working with 45 Carers and cared for people a week, we had 48 sitting volunteers and had 26 people on the waiting list for the respite service.

We launched Telephone Talk and Support in November 2010 and by March 2011 we had 13 Carers receiving support from 9 Volunteers. All volunteers have received training and have been Carers or have an understanding and experience of family Carers' issues. We recruited for an outreach project worker,

Sarah Bleach, to help with this service and the other services where demand was increasing after receiving funding from Comic relief in 2010.

The Young Carers service received enough donations from local organisations to secure its funding for at least 12 months and we had 4 Young Carers we were helping a week by March 2011. We took the young Carers, their families and volunteers to the panto in December. We also started a pilot project, computer help at home, so Carers could utilise their PC's without needing to leave their cared for. We held several larger social occasions for the Carers and their cared for and our volunteers including our Christmas Lunch, two cream teas. My thanks goes to the volunteers and my staff for their hard work and dedication.

[Jo Oliver read her PR & Fundraising report.](#)

£15165 was brought in for the respite service £2850 from Sussex Community Foundation for rural Rother, £500 from Ted Baker Trust for Rye. A special thanks to Sue for running the Hastings Half Marathon again for us. We raised £2081 through our Christmas Raffle, £1025 at our Winter Ball, £1147.53 from sales and £1260 through street collections – thank you to our volunteers for all their help fundraising.

Talk and Support was awarded £45,000 over 3 years by Comic relief to provide telephone support to Older Carers. We have now applied to Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales for a further £31,000 to expand this to cover all ages and provide Peer support too.

Thornton Lodge saved Young Carers by raising £2625, The Wellington Lodge added to this raising a further £450. An extra £655.60 was raised through community events such as sales by Coffee and Company in Rush Lake Green, raffles by Social services and Elaine Copeland and a frog race.

The Seedcorn fund enabled us to launch Computer Help at Home for Carers by providing us with £2400 over 12 months; this was extended to 18 months.

Our accounts are formally accepted by our Trustees on August 23rd

[4. Appointment of Auditor:](#) Ashdown Hurrey were our Auditors for 2010-2011. The committee put it to our members that they are seeking new auditors if any member has any recommendations they should inform Jo Oliver at the office.

[5. Auditors remuneration:](#) Last year we paid £360 for the accounts to be audited, the committee feels this is a more than fair level to pay and suggests it is kept.

[6. Appointment of Charity Trustees \(Committee members\):](#) Jenny Allen is still standing in as Chair person; a new chair will need to be elected at the first committee meeting. We are sorry to say that the following have resigned from the committee over the past twelve months: Rosemary Dee, Eve Grimstead, Pauline Heppel, Doug Withers, Pat Mitchell, Neil Hubbard and Lesley Hunter. The Committee thank them for their time and valuable input. We have three new committee members who wished to be accepted, these are Ted Groves who was co opted on the committee in December, George Bunker a former Carer and Roy Pepper a Volunteer visitor.

[7. Member's proposed resolutions:](#) There were no resolutions proposed.

[8. Any other Business:](#) None to discuss.

The meeting closed 11.17am.