

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 25 November 2023

The Priory Rooms, Quaker Meeting House, Bull Street, Birmingham

2 pm to 3.15 pm

In person and Zoom

Attending in person:

Trustees: Paul Fix (Interim Chair), Pete Bryan (Treasurer), Deborah Johnston (Interim Vice Chair), Alex Harrison, Ahmad Bismallah, Gill Rudd.

New Elected Trustees: Allison Burrow, Dean Ridge.

Staff: Jane Powell, Kirsten Howells.

Members: James Dixon, Nic Maddy, John Russell, Allan Tyrer, Oliver Coyle, Jack Nicholas, Beth Nicholas, Steve Tuvolar(?), Sourish Kumar Mahapatra, Adam Wright, Tim Gibbons, Derek Maynard, Sumbul Rashid, Brian Norman, Jane Williams, Bhupinder Purewal, Sharon Purchase, Paul Pearsall, Sezhii Titomyz, David Collier.

Members attending by Zoom: Kate Angel, Arthur Baker, Clara Burn, Patrick Campbell, Joanna Gaukroger, Peddro Pereira, Tim Shanks, Mandy Taylor.

1 Welcome and apologies

Paul Fix welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Helen Smith, Michael Brassington, John Carling and Colin Marsh.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion: That the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record. Proposed by Alex Harrison, Seconded by Christine Simpson.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3 Finance Report and Accounts

Pete Bryan, STAMMA Treasurer introduced the Statutory Accounts 2022. Income for the year was £713K, with £367K of this sum resulting from legacies (and in particular one large legacy from Roy Trankle, a long-standing member). Total expenditure for 2022 was £554K.

Pete drew attention in particular to the income lines, stressing the value of Member legacies 2018-2023 and the positive impact they had had on the capacity of STAMMA to raise profile and provide services for those who stammer. However, Pete advised that for 2023, expenditure would

significantly exceed income. The Board had now appointed a full-time Fundraising Manager, and the Board has placed income generation as major focus for 2024. All Trustees are keen to close the deficit. Currently there are substantial bank deposits, which are invested cautiously and responsibly, and there are 'designated funds' for capacity building and conferences.

Motion: That the AGM receive and consider the annual report of the Board of Trustees, including the annual statement of accounts.'

Proposed by Derek Maynard, seconded by John Russell.

The full audited accounts have been approved by the Board and lodged with the Charity Commission. They are available on the STAMMA website at <https://stamma.org/about-us/constitution-finances>

4 Appointment of Independent Auditors

Pete stated that, regardless of whether or not STAMMA income exceeded the necessary thresholds each year, the Board were keen to continue with an external professional audit to give Trustees and Members firm assurance about the integrity and accuracy of the Charity's financial reporting.

Motion: That the AGM agrees to the appointment of Royce Peeling Green as the Charity's auditors for 2023/2024.

Proposed by Paul Fix, seconded by Derek Maynard.

5 Appointment of new trustees following the outcome of the 2023 Election

The Chair introduced Allison Burrow and Dean Ridge (who had come top in the 2023 Trustee Elections and who were now joining the Board of Trustees. In addition, the Board had decided to appoint Ahmad Bismallah, who came third in the 2023 Election. All trustees will serve a first term of three years.

The successful candidates were welcomed to the meeting.

Paul thanked the Trustees who were leaving the Board.

6 The next three years

Jane Powell, STAMMA CEO, presented slides outlining what had been achieved at the end of current strategic planning period - which started in 2019 and finished in 2023. She drew attention to the new STAMMA Employment and Advocacy Services, the steady growth in supporter

and membership numbers, the visibility achieved through a series of national campaigns, and how investment in operations had enabled STAMMA to build strong, robust systems, track data, and provide a pleasant work environment for staff.

For 2024-2027 (a three-year strategic period) she explained the new ambition 'Making Space for People Who Stammer', and the strategy of challenging the barriers faced by people who stammer by making the barriers visible, and helping society to support STAMMA in taking them down. This will be achieved by campaigns and our services; with three cross cutting areas of work around support and outreach; membership; communities; and young people}.

There were a series of questions and comments from members about:

How STAMMA proposed to bring stammering to the attention of the media (and get a broader range of voices represented).

What strategies STAMMA might use to increase membership numbers.
How achievement of the new ambition might affect the behaviour of individuals who stammered, and the visibility of stammering to the wider public.

How members might get more engaged with the work of STAMMA (for example, joining sub-committees and focus groups).

More information on achievements and activities is available on the STAMMA website <https://stamma.org/about-us/performance-review>

Any Other business

The Board has three current requests from members:

- To support our campaign work
- To help us improve our income lines for 2024, through fundraising activities
- Attending STAMMAFEST 2024, which will be held at Nottingham Trent University on 15-18 August. More information on this event will be available very shortly.

The formal business of the meeting concluded at 3.15 pm.

The next meeting will be held in August 2024, during the STAMMAFEST 2024 national conference.