

# ***Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group***

## ***Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd July 2011 at SRSB, Mappin Street, Sheffield***

***1. Chairman's Opening Remarks - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including his own personal special guests Steve Hambleton, the General Manager of SRSB, and Neville, one of the volunteer drivers, and his wife Jean. He then extended thanks to the chef and the SRSB staff, who had produced and served us with an excellent meal, and to Hilary and Steve for organising the event and for the wine.***

***2. Apologies - There were no apologies.***

***3. Minutes of the last AGM held on July 2011 - The minutes were agreed as a correct record.***

***4. Matters Arising - It was noted that the Constitution had been changed as agreed and therefore this would be the only General Meeting of the year.***

***It was also noted that a new website had been set up by Christine Whittaker. The Chairman thanked Christine for her efforts.***

***5. Chairman's Report - The Chairman said that SVIWG had had another successful year – thanks to the efforts of the Committee and the support of members. Members had continued to raise funds for the group e.g. Ann Allen who had once again run the Sheffield Half Marathon. Well***

**done to Ann and to all those who had helped to raise funds.**

**During the past year we had also done our best to support SRSB who relied so much on fundraising/ donations to provide a second to none service for visually impaired people. Thanks were also due to those who took part in the recent Chatsworth Sponsored Walk which was so successful. SVIWG continues to be most grateful for the support we received from SRSB. Due to the current financial situation in the UK it will continue to be difficult to raise funds for volunteer groups such as ours. We have to be as thrifty as possible. Generally we try to be self-financing. The recent new activity, water sports, was funded by those who took part. Sailing and canoeing proved to be very stimulating and good exercise enjoyed by all. A return trip next year is possible. If anyone is interested they should contact Eric. Also, if anyone has other suggestions for eye catching/ challenging nature fundraising events, please let Eric know.**

**We have recruited number of new members this year. A warm welcome was extended to new visually impaired members Euin Hill, Julie Hart, Ruzhana Nasvilli, Mike Beck, Graham Marshall, Steph Harris, Lee Teesdale Smith and Craig Moss and to new guides Carol Scanlon, June Wright, Jane Rogers, Joanne and Brett Marshall, Graham Taylor, Julie Graham, Gordon Kitching and Mike Mellors. However, it was with great sadness that that we noted the death of Neil Maw and we extended our sympathy to his family for their loss.**

**Finally, Eric made it clear that, although he was prepared to stand again as Chair this year, he intended to resign**

**next year. He strongly recommended that a person capable of taking over the chair be elected to the Committee at this meeting, or join the Committee during this year with a view to having an orderly progression to a new Chairman in 2012. This person did not have to be visually impaired. A Special General Meeting could be called at any time to take a vote of members if an applicant came forward later in the year.**

**6. Treasurer's Report - A copy of the Treasure's report was circulated at the meeting. Hilary read the report out to members. The annual income was £5,747.00 and the outgoings £7,189.93. There was a balance in the bank of £4243.65 and cash in hand of £9.08.**

**7. Election of Officers - Officers who had indicated that they were prepared to continue were elected unopposed. The were:**

**Eric Andrews: Chair**

**George Napier: Vice-Chair**

**John Bater: Walks Planner and Co-ordinator**

**Christine Hewitt: Membership Secretary**

**Sue Pearson: Treasurer**

**Hilary Myers: Social Secretary**

**There were no nominations for Secretary to replace Christine Whittaker. This post remains vacant although Christine will continue to do the newsletter and website.**

**It was noted that Mike Burgin had resigned as Special Advisor. Eric thanked Mike for his long and valuable service to the group.**

**Brian Hirst was appointed to the Committee to take Mike's place.**

***8. Any other business - There was no other business.***