

Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th July 2012 at SRSB, Mappin Street, Sheffield

1. Chairman

Eric welcomed everyone and also welcomed his guests Harry and Wendy Johnson, who had helped Eric out with the group's trip to Austria during his first year as Chairman. Eric also thanked our Chef Rob and his staff for their excellent food and service and asked them to come out and receive the group's applause. Eric went on to thank Hilary and Steve for all their help and to thank Norman and Sue for the raffle which raised £55.

2. Apologies

Ray Johnson, Ken Bower, Stan Wainwright and George Napier.

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on 22 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.

5. Chairman's Report

Eric believed we had had another successful year. Last year's holiday in Wales included climbing up Snowdon had given him the idea of climbing Ben Nevis and raising funds for SRSB and SVIWG. To date sviwg has raised

£2,680. Thanks to members and friends and help from Sue and Jane of SRSB.

Eric gave his commiserations to Ann Allen for her gallant attempt to run the Sheffield half marathon this year. He also welcomed new members, including the several students, who members enjoyed walking with.

6. Election of Officers

Before the election began, Christine Hewitt proposed that the Constitution be amended to allow the number of committee members to be increased from 7 to 9.

However, the majority must still be visually impaired. The amendment was seconded by Betsy Wilson and was agreed unanimously by members

Chair: Addressing the meeting, Eric reminded everyone that he intended to retire as Chairman this year, and went on to recommend Christine Hewitt as an excellent candidate for sviwg's new chairman. Christine was voted in as Chairman.

Vice Chair: George Napier, who was standing down, was thanked for his service as Vice Chair over the last 3 years. Eric offered to fill the post of Vice Chair temporarily until Brian Hirst, who had requested to be considered for the role, had gained more active experience as a committee member. Christine Hewitt said she would value Eric's experience, but would also like to see Brian take a more active role on the committee. A paper vote was carried out, and Eric was voted in as vice chair.

Walks Planner and Co-ordinator: John Bater

Membership Secretary: Christine Hewitt

Treasurer: Sue Pearson (for 1 year only)

Social Secretary: Hilary Myers

Minutes Secretary: Pauline Bullivant

Newsletter Editor: Gail Fagan

Other Committee Members: Brian Hirst.

7. Treasurer's Report The treasurer's report was accepted as a true record.

8. Any other business

8.1. Eric thanked Norman Pearson for taking Mick Charlsworth out for walks. Nigel Robb offered to help, and Eric asked for more volunteers.

8.2. Christine Hewitt thanked the guides, and reminded them to let her and John know if they were going on a walk.

8.3. Christine informed members that David Jardin, of Sheffield Ramblers, had recently died.

8.4. Betsy Wilson proposed that the members thanked Christine Hewitt for taking on the role as Chair and wished her luck in her new post.