

Empathy AGM – 6 June 2015

Venue: Long Mynd Adventure Camp

<u>Present</u>		<u>Apologies</u>
18 Members including 7 Trustees + 10 South members 1 North Members		6 Members

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

2. Accountant's report

The report was distributed and adopted by the meeting. Eric Williams was thanked for preparing the accounts and the auditor Kevin Adams was also thanked for donating his time to Empathy. Letters of thanks and a small gift would be sent.

3. Appointment of an auditor

Kevin Adams was re-appointed as auditor for 2015/16

4. Chair's annual report

Michelle (chair) outlined her report. It has been a successful but at the same time a challenging year. Highlights included the successful fundraising events held in the North (music evening) and the South (bingo). Michelle thanked Sam for her continued work and commitment to Empathy and encouraged members to sponsor Sam and the others undertaking fundraising activities but more importantly to spread the word to those outside the group. She also thanked the Young Trustees and the other members of the Board.

5. Report from Young Trustees

Matt (North) has given a verbal report to Sam saying that everyone is good and everyone gets on well. They are coping with the new venue and looking forward to next year.

Olivia (South) stated it was going well and suggested that the South Group needs to get better organised with the stickers and a few more Young Trustees are needed in the South.

6. The annual report will be circulated shortly

Sam summarised the need for a secure funding stream for the years ahead and the need for members to volunteer to the Local Management Committees to free up her time to concentrate on securing grant funding.

7. Election of Trustees

All trustees are remaining in post.

Theresa Khan had volunteered to help and will join the North Group management committee initially.

Trustee	office
Michelle Leonard	Chair
Hilary McGlynn	Secretary
Nichola Tawn	
Steve Roberts	Treasurer
Reggie Barret	
Lee Stevens	

8. Young Trustees – the following were appointed

North	South
Elliot Jones	Olivia Goddard-Cockaday
Matt Harvey	Cameron Leonard
Emma Willis	Ruby Griffiths
Owen Smith	Amy Goucher

NB- Eric Williams; will remain as accountant and financial advisor to advise the board.

9. Any other business

Hilary McGlynn declared a conflict of interest and abstained

The meeting agreed that it had been a difficult year. From the autumn onwards there had been issues initially stemming from a dispute between individuals which had escalated into inappropriate activity on social media by Lisa Roberts and eventually extending to using other opportunities (local radio, local meetings and complaints to funders) to bring Empathy into disrepute. The Trustees summarised the actions they had taken.

- Policies and procedures had been updated
- Lisa had been invited to engage with the Trustees to discuss the issue but she refused to meet.
- Lisa and her family were asked to respect a cooling off period of 3-4 months from the South Group but were informed they were welcome at Holiday activities and the North Group if they wished.
- Lisa and Phil were removed from the Empathy Facebook group after repeated breaches of the social media policy

The Trustees wished to stress that the family had not been banned from Empathy and the family had not made a complaint using the complaints policy.

The membership was asked to decide the next step now that the cooling off period had expired. Members agreed unanimously that in the light of the continued animosity shown by Lisa towards the Group that the families' membership be terminated.

10. Moving forward

Members were asked to consider how they can help counteract any negative publicity with positive stories using Facebook and the website. A positive page of stories/news will be investigated for the website.