

**The Association of Talking Friends**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**2022/01 Welcome and Worship**

We began our meeting today with a period of worship.

**2022/02 Present and prevented**

The following Friends were present: Cathy Khurana (Clerk), Alan Johnson, Nicholas Tulley, Hilary Johnson, Gillian Bryan (Treasurer), Susan Steadman, Eleanor Tew, Clare Hamon, Ann Lewis, Howard Cheeseman.

And those prevented: Joy Croft, Barbara Forbes.

**2022/03 Trustees Annual Report for 2021**

The Annual report has been circulated by email, and recorded with the Talking Friend 1<sup>st</sup> April edition. We accept the report which is filed. Cathy will forward the report to our named staff contact at Friends House.

**2022/04 Accounts for 2021**

Gillian Bryan, our treasurer, has given us a verbal report of the 2021 accounts. Our income was £505, expenditure was £866.23 – a loss of £361.23. At the end of 2021 there was £1258.43 in the account.

The accounts were examined and accepted by Wendy Burnett.

Gillian will send the income and expenditure summary to the Charity Commission.

**2022/05 Revised constitution**

A draft revised constitution has been sent out with the papers for this AGM, and recorded with the Talking Friend 1<sup>st</sup> April edition.

We accept the revised constitution with the additions and amendments agreed today. This will be sent to the Charity Commission.

A copy will be circulated with the minutes.

**2022/06 Talking Friends and the coronavirus pandemic**

The coronavirus pandemic continued to disrupt and change normal life throughout 2021. For the ATF the important consequence of this was that Friends House was unable to resume the pre-pandemic service offered to us. Volunteers have not been able to return to Friends House. We have, however, been able to continue to record and distribute the Talking Friend on memory sticks with the continued excellent help and support of Birmingham Talking Newspapers for Blind and Visually Impaired.

**2022/07 Talking Friends service delivery options**

On 2nd March 2022 a meeting was held with members of the ATF committee and Quaker Life staff at Friends House to consider service delivery options and possibilities. Friends House currently has no

plan to invite volunteers back, so alternatives to the help and support provided by these volunteers need to be considered.

First, the memory stick duplicator which belongs to ATF is now at Bull St QMH in Birmingham, but not yet brought back into service as we continue to use BTNBVI.

With some initial help and advice from Oliver Waterhouse from Quaker life, Nicholas, Alan and Eleanor have been trialling the possibility of using computer software for direct transfer of TF/audio recordings without the need for memory sticks. This has proved technologically challenging and no perfect solution has arrived.

However, we have had a useful discussion on possible alternatives. We decided to ask the TF committee to explore the matter further:

- i) to ask our website coordinator about the possibility of a secure area on the website for uploading the Talking Friend;
- ii) to consult subscribers on their preferred options;
- iii) to consider using RNIB Newsagent service.

We note that using our website is our preferred option.

### **2022/08 Date of Annual General Meeting in 2023**

This will be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April , starting at 10.30am.

Cathy Khurana

Clerk, The Association of Talking Friends