

Kevin Hyatt

ASSOCIATION OF CROSSROADS
CARE ATTENDANT SCHEMES LTD.

94, Coton Road,
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M I N U T E S

of the Second Annual General Meeting held in the Benn Memorial Hall, The Town Hall, Rugby, on Thursday, 29th September, 1983, at 11.00 a.m.

Mr. Mathews, Chairman of the Association, welcomed Mr. Tony Newton, OBE, M.P. Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for the disabled, representatives from the Department of Health and Social Security, Rugby Health Authority and representatives from 46 schemes.

Mr. Mathews then introduced Mr. Tony Newton and thanked him for agreeing to give the opening address. (Main points appended).

1. Apologies were received from Dr. Richard Hudson-Evans, Vice Chairman of the Association and the Executive, Mr. Ken Hart, Treasurer to the Executive, Mr. John Dart, Welfare Administrator of the M.S. Society and New Executive committee member, Mr. Selwyn Goldsmith, Chairman of the Westminster scheme, Miss Doris Philips, Co-ordinator of the Delyn scheme, Mrs. Mavis Garner, Committee member of the Harlow scheme, Mrs. Jean Kelly, Committee member of the Rochford scheme, Mr. Jack Carpenter, Treasurer of the Woking scheme, Mrs. D. Kemp, Co-ordinator of the Tynedale scheme, the committee of the Tynedale scheme, Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye, Director, Cerebral Palsy Overseas, Mr. M. Stopford, Head of Centres, The Spastics Society, Miss A. Perroh, Secretary to the Llanelli scheme, Dr. Gillison, Chairman of the Milton Keynes scheme, Mrs. Butterworth, Committee member for the Milton Keynes scheme, Dr. Keele, Chairman of the Breckland scheme, Mrs. N. Newman, Co-ordinator for the Breckland scheme, Mrs. E. King, Committee member for the Breckland scheme, Miss J. Cooper, Chairman of the South Glamorgan scheme, Mrs. S. Payne, Co-ordinator of the South Glamorgan scheme, Miss M. Watkins, Secretary of the South Glamorgan scheme, Mrs. J. Brenig-Jones, Liaison Information Officer, Mrs. P. Adams, Development Officer for Wales, Mrs. J. Stark, Secretary of the Calderdale scheme.
2. The minutes of the First Annual General Meeting, held on the 30th September, 1983, were adopted.
3. Annual Reports of the Association

- a) Mr. Norman Banner formerly presented the Executive Committee Chairman's report. He added the details of the recent Election for Executive committee membership, which included the election of Mrs. J. Smith, from the Huddersfield scheme. Unfortunately following her election Mrs. Smith had moved from Huddersfield and as a result was no longer eligible to remain a member of the Association or Executive. By virtue of the votes cast her place on the Executive committee was taken by Mrs. Roma Naden, Chairman of the Cheltenham scheme.

Mr. Banner also announced the appointments of staff to the Association of Mr. David Holmes, as Finance Officer, Mrs. Carol Youngs, as Development Officer for Herts, Middx, London and Surrey, Mrs. Jane Horn, as Development Officer, for the North and North East, Mrs. Angela Owen, as Development Officer, for the North West, Mrs. Lydi Sijperda, as Development Officer for Holland, Mrs. Tricia Holmes as Project Officer for Training and Mrs. June Dove as Clerical assistant. The report was adopted.

- b) As Mr. Ken Hart, Treasurer of the Association had been unable to attend the AGM, Mr. Norman Banner formerly presented the Treasurer's report which was adopted.
- c) Mrs. Pat Osborne formerly presented the Chief Executive Officer's report which was adopted.

4. Appointment of Auditors

The Auditor's report, as per the Annual report was adopted. It was also reported that Mr. M. L. Priest had expressed his willingness to continue as Auditor for the Association. This was accepted.

The formal part of the AGM closed at 11.39 a.m.

The Chairman then invited Mr. Tony Newton to accept questions from the meeting, which he accepted.

The new video, "Freedom Regained", made in the Wirral was then shown, following which the four Co-ordinators, Mrs. G. Quinn of Rochdale, Mrs. E. Robinson of Southend, Mrs. A. Owen of the Wirral and Mrs. J. Lock of Woking answered questions associated with the additional problems and implications of extending care to people with a mental handicap.

After lunch a second new video, "An Introduction to Crossroads Schemes", made in Northamptonshire, was shown. The main aim of this video was to highlight the flexibility of schemes in differing geographical locations.

Mr. Norman Banner then chaired an Open Forum, with the panel comprising Richard Ambury, Development Officer, Graham New, Company Secretary, Philip Bloy, Insurance Consultant and Pat Osborne, Chief Executive Officer.

Subjects raised were:-

a) Insurance

A brief, prepared by Philip Bloy, was distributed, detailing the Insurance arrangements available to individual schemes through the Association. These include Employers and Public liability, Personal Accident and Office Comprehensive policies.

b) Limited Companies

The question of whether or not a local scheme should be made into a limited company was raised. Mr. Graham New, as legal adviser, replied that whereas there was nothing to prevent an individual scheme doing this, there was no real benefit as owing to the nature of the organisation, there would not be any requirement for loans etc, as the schemes had little in the form of assets. The expense of forming a limited liability company and the required audit fees were therefore not justified.

c) Manpower Services Commission

A lively discussion was held regarding the availability of finance through the MPSC. Representatives fully endorsed the Executive's unanimous conclusion and recommendation that schemes do not involve themselves with MPSC owing to the restrictions and limitations associated with this form of finance.

d) Executive Voting Procedure

Mr. Norman Banner raised the question of the postal voting method which had been queried by a Scheme and stated that after discussion at their last Committee Meeting, the Executive had decided to retain the same method. He had, however, promised the Chairman of the Scheme that he would raise the matter again, following discussion on the point of anonymity.

Following a brief summing up, Mr. Norman Banner closed the meeting at 3.30 p.m.

The Third Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 27th September, 1984.

MAIN POINTS FROM MR. NEWTON'S SPEECH - 29.9.83.

"I am delighted to have this opportunity today to share in your continuing success story and as I have enjoyed a long connection with the Braintree Crossroads scheme myself, I take particular pride in the phenomenal growth there has been in the number of Care Attendant schemes throughout the country. This is the kind of progress which I am sure could not have been visualised when the first pilot project was established nine years ago.

I am glad that the Department has been able to help over the years with grants towards your central administrative costs and this year, despite exceptional demands for funds and a very limited budget, we have been able to increase your grant to £63,000 and help fund four new posts I think that this is a clear and firm indication of our appreciation of the work you are doing, although we expect that the addition of the new Finance Officer will mean that he will be able to raise money from other sources so that the DHSS grant can eventually be reduced.

I am particularly glad to see the extension of Crossroads activities to include people with a mental handicap and look forward to seeing the film and hearing more about this aspect of your work. It is a sad fact that until comparatively recently mental handicap was one of the most isolating handicaps. This applied not only to the mentally handicapped people themselves who were often "put away" in large isolated hospitals in the country but also to their families since mental handicap was regarded as something strange and frightening. Care in the community for mentally handicapped people therefore involves much more than providing them and their families with a wide range of support services according to individual need. It involves a change of attitude towards this handicap and becoming accustomed to seeing and behaving normally towards mentally handicapped people in our midst. Fortunately there has been a tremendous change in attitude over the past few years.

Crossroads is now doing something very positive about it although I know that they too were somewhat apprehensive about their venture into this area. But it is important that they should be operating at this essentially neighbourly level ... Bricks and mortar and professional services are of course vital but it is the general acceptance of the person with a mental handicap as an individual person that will fire society's determination to give them a better deal.

Crossroads people display a special blend of idealism and practicality. That blend means that they give people what they want - which is guaranteed to be successful! They give disabled people that most valuable commodity - choice. Choice to live in the community - alone or with friends - rather than residential care. To make decisions about everyday matters the rest of us take for granted as our right. Crossroads also releases some of the burden of guilt that often accompanies dependence on relatives. That relationship can become extremely fraught, with emotion and guilt on both sides. Crossroads helps keep it in perspective.

You enable the disabled person to accept help - they know they are not subservient because they are dependant. Young disabled people in particular, want help to maintain an independent will and skills. Part of maintaining an independent will is consulting disabled people. This gives them dignity. Crossroads consult the disabled person and, if there is one, the carer, about their needs and how they would like them met. Your help is not regimented but is flexible, and deals admirably with these problems.

Crossroads particular strength is in its local nature and you are therefore in an ideal position to find out what people really want. The ability and opportunity to do this cannot be overestimated. Well done".