

## **AGM MINUTES**

**Held at:** The University of Birmingham on Wednesday 28 November 2007.

**Present:** 47 members. Peter Halfpenny in the Chair.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

- (a) None received.

### **2. Minutes of the third AGM held on 29 November 2006**

- (a) Approved.

### **3. Matters Arising from the above minutes**

- (a) None

### **4. Chair's Remarks:** Peter Halfpenny reported on achievements since the previous AGM.

- (a) He was pleased that the introduction of a subscription fee for VSSN membership had not deterred people, with membership reaching 99 fully subscribed members by the end of the year.
- (b) A major development for the organisation had been the appointment of a part-time Executive Officer primarily to extend the services offered to members.
- (c) Over 130 delegates attended the joint VSSN/NCVO annual conference held at Warwick in September this year.
- (d) Day seminars held in Glasgow and at South Bank were each attended by over 30 delegates and provided good networking opportunities.
- (e) A new edition of the membership directory had been published and distributed free to all paid-up members.
- (f) The number of subscribers to the free email list has continued to grow and it now has over 300 members. Discussion on the list had produced some top level debates.
- (g) The Steering Group has met three times in the course of the year. A Special General Meeting took place in spring 2007 in order to amend the constitution to allow for postal and electronic voting in elections to the Steering Group.

### **5. Annual Report**

- (a) The Annual Report and Accounts for 2006/07 have been formally approved by the Steering Group and they are available to download from the VSSN website.
- (b) There was a substantial increase in income this year due to the implementation of membership subscriptions.

**Recorded:**

- The meeting formally received the Annual Report and Accounts for 2006/7.

**6. Membership Report:** Gareth Morgan reviewed membership figures.

- (a) Individual membership stood at 77 at the date of the meeting. There were currently two Organisational Members. Membership had dropped slightly due to the way the membership year is divided; those subscribing from April 2007 received membership until Sep 30<sup>th</sup> 2008.
- (b) The importance of encouraging colleagues and others to join and receive the benefits of membership was stressed.

**7. Election of Steering Group**

- (a) Nine nominations had been received for eight elected places. The results of the election held in November 2007 were tallied by independent tellers (Felix Mussell and Gareth Morgan) and were formally announced by the Chair. Members elected to the Steering Group were as follows (in alphabetical surname order):

Pete Alcock  
Angela Ellis Paine  
Peter Halfpenny  
Veronique Jochum  
Jeremy Kendall  
Rob Macmillan  
Cathy Pharoah  
Nick Plant

**8. Journal:** Pete Alcock reported on the latest developments concerning the production of a VSSN Journal.

- (a) The Steering Group had decided not to be formally involved with the journal to be published by Gary Kitchen.
- (b) Members of the Steering Group were currently holding discussions with two possible publishers.
- (c) The publication date was likely to be one year after an initial agreement to proceed with the journal had been taken.
- (d) The journal remained a VSSN initiative and the editorial team would be drawn from VSSN members.
- (e) Members would be encouraged to contribute to the journal.

**Noted:**

- (f) It was suggested that the journal could be produced electronically. Pete Alcock confirmed that it was intended that any journal published would be available to members in electronic format, but that the Steering Group felt it was important for the journal to be published in printed format with an established publisher to

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ensure the journal received the necessary prestige needed to market it successfully.

(g) Pete Alcock confirmed that it was the intention of the Steering Group that receipt of any journal published would form a part of the benefits of VSSN membership.

**9. AOB:** Thanks were recorded to Gareth Morgan, who is retiring from the Steering Group where he has served as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. His extensive contribution to establishing the legal and financial foundations for the Network has been of enormous benefit.