



## **Annual General Meeting**

**Date: 28 October 2021**

**Time: 12.30-1.30pm**

**Venue: By Zoom**

## **Minutes**

### **Welcome and apologies**

#### **Present:**

**Directors and Company Secretary:** Leo Starrs-Cunningham (Convenor), Kim Dams, Jim Elder-Woodward, Balkishan Agrawal

**Full members:** Kim Dams (DG Voice), Peter McDade (East Dunbartonshire Access Panel), Iain McGregor (Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living), Mike Harrison (SATA), Caroline Gould (Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel), Derek Kelter (North Lanarkshire Disability Forum), Lorraine Van Beuge (North Lanarkshire Disability Forum) Marianne Scobie (Glasgow Disability Alliance).

**Apologies:** Pam Maxwell, Jackie Maciera, Irena Paterson

Moira Tasker welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and introduced Leo Starrs-Cunningham, our convenor.

Leo was pleased to see so many people attending the AGM. For voting, the people eligible to vote are representatives of our member, Disabled People's Organisations.

There are currently 50 Full Member organisations and the minimum required for the AGM to be quorate is the lower of 10 per cent of them or 10. There were 8 full members present, so the AGM is quorate. Leo introduced Janice Sheridan. Janice addressed housekeeping issues.

## **1. Minutes from Annual General Meeting 2020**

The minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2020 were presented. Leo asked for any corrections to the minutes or queries about them.

Leo proposed that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. This was formally proposed by Dr Balkishan Agrawal and seconded by Peter McDade. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

## **2. Convenor's Report**

Leo presented the convenor reports. Leo was honoured to introduce Inclusion Scotland's 2020-2021 Annual report.

It has been a truly unprecedented year of challenges for everyone, and the team has risen, time and again, to each one, with resilience, skill, knowledge, and compassion. The staff team, and the board, have seen significant changes throughout the last year.

We have said goodbye to Sally Witcher as CEO. Leo thanked her for her incredible work over the years – Inclusion Scotland would not be where it is today without her, and she will be missed. Leo thanked those that have stood down from the board during this year – Terry Robinson, Derek Kelter, and Irena Paterson. Their presence within the disability movement will continue to be felt. Leo thanked to them all, on behalf of

the board, the staff, and, of course, our members. Leo welcomed aboard our new CEO, Moira Tasker, who joined us in July.

He acknowledged the efforts the staff, board, our members and public services during the pandemic.

Leo spoke about some of the work of Inclusion Scotland did this year. Key points included:

- Staff team researched the lived experience of disabled people in the face of the pandemic. The research revealed systemic failures in our treatment by others over decades, on both a national and local level. Inclusion Scotland fed back the research to Scottish Government, shifting the locus of policy formation into lived experience.
- Inclusion Scotland successfully managed get BSL included into First Minister Covid-19 Briefings.
- We got a member of the People Led Policy Panel onto the review panel of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care led by Derek Feeley.
- The Feeley Review marks a clear change, and opportunity, in thinking around social care support. Something disabled people have been calling for, for decades.
- The report of the National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership recommended incorporation of human rights conventions into Scots Law.

Leo wished everyone a healthier, happier, less stressful year ahead.

### **3. Chief Executives report**

Moira presented the chief executives report. Moira started in July 2021 and this report covers the year up March 2021. It strange to deliver this as she had no part in the achievements of our staff and board.

Inclusion Scotland activities this year are impressive, given the challenges us disabled people have endured over the pandemic. While many organisations slowed down, Inclusion Scotland swung into action, engaging with disabled people across the country to gather and report on their experiences during the pandemic. We acted on those experiences to ensure public information was accessible, co-produced

research, supported people into paid internships and supported people to become decision makers themselves.

Inclusion Scotland and it's dedicated board, staff and members changed both the lives of many disabled people and national policy and practice.

This year saw the departure of Dr Sally Witcher OBE. An outstanding leader and changemaker for disabled people. We are grateful for the work that Sally has done for the organisation over the past 7 years. We are also very grateful to Heather Fiskin, Dr Pauline Nolan and Phyl Meyer, the senior management team for stepping in as interim directors. They worked with Leo and other board members to run the organisation to the transition of a new CEO. Thank You.

#### **4. Annual Accounts and Agree Auditors for next year.**

Leo mentioned that Jeremy Chittlebrough is here from our auditors Chiene and Tait and will be able to take any questions on the accounts.

The accounts were presented by our Treasurer, Kim Dams Kim joined the board in December 2020. These are accounts that she has no direct input in.

Kim thanked Gillian Lawrence, our previous treasurer for all her work before stepping down this year. Kim thanked the Scottish Government, Equality and Human Rights Commission (Scotland), and The Big Lottery Fund for their financial support during the last funding year.

The audited accounts give figures for the financial year, which runs from April 2020 to March 2021. They provide a snapshot of where our accounts stood at that time.

Our income from donations and legacies was £479,521. Our grant income for the financial year was £997,456. We raised £13,144 from other sources such training, consultancy and events.

Our **total income** for the financial year was £1,490,121.

Our **total expenditure** for the financial year was £1,601,494.

The recorded positive balance at the end of March was £328,627 of which £233,473 was restricted.

The difference is due to expenditure not incurred until after the end of the financial year, the change to our funding year, moving toward a new finance system, projects to revamp our website, a pay review, additional spend over the period of change management, a CEO recruitment process, and Covid specific funding to support remote working.

Kim thanked Sally Witcher and Phyl Meyer for managing the finances until their departure. She also thanked Samantha Masuku and Phillip Heritage-Vivers, for their work in establishing new Finance procedures and keeping the financial records. Finally, she thanked our auditors Chien and Tait for their audit on our accounts.

The accounts were approved by the AGM.

Kim presented the resolution that we re-appoint: **Chiene and Tait, 61 Dublin St, Edinburgh EH3 6NL.**

This was proposed by Marianne Scobie and seconded by Denis Shovlin

## **5. Election of Directors to the board**

Leo explained we have 3 vacancies for elected directors and we had 2 nominations by the deadline. This means they are automatically elected.

The elected directors are:

- Derek Kelter, nominated by North Lanarkshire Disability Forum (NLDF) .
- Irena Paterson, nominated by Moray Disability Forum.

Leo formally welcomed them to the Board for the year 2021-2022.

## **6 . Any Other Business**

Balkishan Agrawal noted that with Lived Experience Leadership pilot project, participants were able to meet much more often online than we would have face-to-face. It was a great success for Inclusion Scotland.

Denis Shovlin spoke about how he suggested at the People-led Policy Panel meeting that we should invite senior social workers to our meetings. Denis spoke to a senior social worker in Falkirk about it. He is waiting to hear back about a possible meeting.

Kelly Wilson thought it is all the same complaints over and over again. It is nothing new. We need to put more pressure on people in Government to get real change for disabled people.

David Howie asked what Inclusion Scotland was doing around the 20 minute neighbourhoods? Moira spoke about how she has been pointing out for many years that it is not possible for everybody. If you cannot get out of your house, if you cannot access everyday services or barriers are put in place by well-meaning schemes. We haven't got it right in Scotland. We are in contact with the town centre planning review and the active travel movement.

Leo told the AGM that some of the questions can be answered in the conference. Leo closed the AGM.

**Convenor's signature of approval:**

**Date:**