



**Charity No: 1091491**

**National Chair: Paul Latham**

**Minutes of the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015**

**Saturday 21 November 2015 11am**

**Ramada Hotel, The Mailbox, Birmingham, B1 1RL**

**Welcome by the Chair**

All were welcomed to the Annual General Meeting.

In attendance:

Paul Latham (Chair); Tim Day (Treasurer); Mary Woodcock (Membership Secretary); Roy Hughes; Rob Staples; Gill Johnson; Ruth Dann; Tony Eaude; Michelle Murray; Jill Adams

**Apologies for absence**

Received from:

Neil Burton, University of Leicester

Kath Veneer, University of Plymouth

Tess Trewinnard, Womersley and Shamly Green Primary

Helen Farmery, University of Middlesex

Alan Cross, University of Manchester

Marc Smale, University of Wolverhampton

Andrew Pollard, London Institute of Education

Michael Bailey, St Peter's Church of England Primary, Leicestershire

Paul Adams, Strathclyde University

Tony Hand, Dosthill Primary School

John Coe, NAPE

Vanessa Patel, Highlands Primary School, Ilford

Mike Brogden, Former Exec Member

Mike Ayles, Bedfordshire

Peter Silcock, Former Chair of ASPE and Hon Member

**Minutes of the last AGM**

The minutes of the AGM from 22 November 2014 were considered.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

### **Matters arising**

Tony Eaude raised a question about whether more Book Reviews could feature in the Education 3-13 journal. A member of the editorial team noted that there is significant pressure on the journal already with an existing backlog of articles. It was suggested that we could explore publishing some of these Reviews on the ASPE website – all agreed this was a positive solution.

ACTION: The Chair to raise this with Mark Brundrett (Editor)

### **Trustees Annual Report from the Chair, Paul Latham**

The Chair presented his annual report (previously circulated).

Key points were highlighted:

- The last year has seen considerable successes;
- The Education 3-13 Journal continues to go from strength to strength; in total, including that from subscribers, over 114,000 of the most popular articles have been downloaded this year, an increase in 13% on 2013 figures; income is enabling ASPE to organise events, sponsor research and other initiatives;
- Eight research projects have been funded covering individual and networks of schools; The Chair emphasised the point that all projects plans had met ASPE criteria and involve partnership working with HE institutions; this is reinforcing one of the principal objects of ASPE which is to encourage reflective practice in schools; the projects will engage a total 70 primary schools;
- A very successful seminar series has been funded by ASPE; four seminars have been attended by over 300 people in total and have attracted many new members. The seminars have been an outstanding success and are a tribute to Mark Brundrett who took overall leadership in bringing them about;
- The website is currently being reviewed and developed.

The Chair asked for comments/questions.

- Tony Eaude asked if there was to be a further seminar in this series. The Chair responded by saying there will be a further seminar in late Spring 2016, possibly based in the Merseyside area. Arrangements are still at an early stage of development and Robin Alexander has been approached in connection with this.

### **Adoption of the Statement of Annual Accounts**

Tim made his last presentation of the accounts. He is to stand down as Treasurer at the end of this AGM.

Tim expressed his delight at leaving the accounts in such a healthy position, with reserves of £50601. He shared his vision that the Association may benefit from greater clarity with the accounts if they were realigned to a financial year April to March. He also suggested that the Association should move towards Internet banking as soon as possible.

Tim also presented a report from the Independent Examiner dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015, which confirmed that everything is in order, with no matters or issues of concern identified.

The meeting passed a sincere vote of thanks to the Treasurer for his work for ASPE over the last 24 years.

## **Membership Report**

Mary shared her last annual report, as she is standing down as Membership Secretary at the end of this AGM.

Membership is in a healthier position than ever in relation to new members. A total of 216 individuals and institutions had expressed an interest or renewed their membership of ASPE. So far 109 have completed the process and were now fully paid-up members. Further work is needed to help those remaining to complete the application process and to improve systems for payment and recording members' details. Mary underlined that the Association needs to continually seek to recruit new members and ensure that the varied needs of the existing membership continue to be served. Mary shared the ongoing challenges of securing payments from potential members and discussion followed on how this might be best achieved.

The meeting passed a sincere vote of thanks to Mary for her excellent work over past last two decades.

## **Election to Executive Committee**

Chair: – Paul Latham (1 year to run)

Vice Chair & Secretary: Vacancy – Roy Hughes (nominated by Rob Staples, seconded by Jill Adams) – appointment carried unanimously and without further nominations;

Treasurer: Vacancy – Jill Adams (nominated by the Chair, seconded by Roy Hughes) - appointment carried unanimously and without further nominations;

Membership Secretary: Vacancy; In the absence of nominations Michelle Murray agreed to stand on an interim basis until a permanent appointment could be made. (nominated by Rob Staples, seconded by Mary Woodcock);

Executive Officers – The Chair announced the resignations of John Coe, Rebecca Cox and Jeannette Mackinney from the Executive Committee. He expressed his thanks for their commitment to ASPE during their period of service.

Paul Adams, Ruth Dann, Neil Burton, Tony Hand, Peter Sainsbury, Roby Staples and Gill Johnson to continue to serve as Executive Members and Trustees. Paul expressed the need to recruit at least three new school members to the Executive in order to retain a good balance of representation.

## **Any other business**

Tony Eade made a suggestion that ASPE could focus over the next four years on having a stronger voice within primary education. This would support ASPE's stated aim of "providing informed and independent information and commentary on education policy issues". The meeting discussed how short papers could be produced to comment on key government policies or current issues facing those working in education. It was agreed that this could lead to lively debate within the education communicate on a wide range of issues. These would need to be presented carefully as 'think pieces' as opposed to a consensus view from ASPE. **Tony agreed to write a first piece as illustrative of the type of article (two pages maximum) he had in mind. This and further examples to be placed on the website.**

An inspiring and educationally-rich presentation was then received from Ruth Dann on 'New Research Futures in Primary Education.'

The presentation outlined:

- Current research approaches.
- What is research for? – drawing on the work of Gert Biesta: "Good Education in an age of Measurement' and the earlier work of Laurence Stenhouse.

- Embedding and developing research in schools.

The Chair thanked Ruth for her excellent and very relevant presentation.

The meeting closed at 1:00pm

RS/PL