



AUTSCAPE

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Aut scape Organisation
Held at 11:30am on Thursday 7th August 2014 at Belsey Bridge Conference Centre,
Ditchingham, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 2DZ.**

Chaired by: Martijn (Chair of the Board of Directors of The Aut scape Organisation)

The meeting adopted the agenda as printed

Apologies: Debbie Finucane and The Goth

1. Minutes of the 2013 AGM.

The minutes are available at: <http://www.autscape.org/organisation/generalmeetings/> or in hard copy from the company secretary, on request.

Martijn read the minutes of the 2013 AGM held at 9:30am 9th August 2013.

One member asked for clarification about the whereabouts of Agnes Fairhead. Martijn clarified that she resigned prior to the 2013 AGM.

One member, Nat, asked for one word, “undercapacity” to be changed due to it being ambiguous. The following correction to the minutes should be made: “There were insufficient members on the Board to perform the Board’s duties.”

The meeting approved the minutes of the 2013 AGM.

2. Presentation of the Annual Report (including accounts) as distributed to members on 17th July 2013.

Martijn, Chair of The Aut scape Organisation, gave an oral summary of the activities and main objectives of The Aut scape Organisation and Stephen, presented a summary of the Accounts of The Aut scape Organisation.

One member, Larry, questioned why we ran at a loss this year. This was also asked by Alastair.

Yo asked the treasurer to explain Aut scape’s reserves policy. Stephen explained that our reserves policy is to have reserves of between £1,000 and £3,000. This year, we ran our reserves at the high end of that limit.

One member, Richard, suggested that it would be good to run the reserves at a proportionate level to the membership. Effectiveness of the reserves stays the same but grows as the company grows (in members). Stephen responded by saying that most of our funds are designated funds, the reserves only represent the undesignated funds.

The following members asked further questions:

Julian: What’s the reason for keeping the reserves at such a low level? Any money that is not being used for a charitable purposes is a waste. It shouldn’t be excessive. We just need some contingency for the unexpected things. Stephen: We need to have a reasonable amount of money for unexpected circumstances but it can’t be too much because as a charity it can’t be too much, because we can’t make a profit.

Alastair: how is the deficit covered? Stephen: The reserves were reduced by the deficit by the £2,500.

Larry: surpluses from previous Autscapes have been put in reserves but these have been used to subsidise Autscope. What is going to be the policy for next year? Are we going to continue to run at a deficit? Autscope 2015 – is that intended to run at a deficit? Stephen: We set fees for each year based on what our income is. We are currently looking for alternative ways of raising funds.

Members wanted to know about Autscapes policies and financial position. Martijn confirmed that there were no problems or issues and suggested that people who want to contribute to fundraising, should join the fundraising subcommittee, chaired by Liz.

Larry (seconded by Harri) motioned that the membership accept that the accounts were presented to us in an understandable form. The membership voted in favour.

Action: Next year's accounts should be presented in an easy to understand format.

3. Announcement of retirements

Elaine announced that current directors, Martijn Dekker and Stephen Miller, had both reached the end of their terms and were now seeking re-election.

Martijn also announced that the current company secretary, Yo, has decided to resign. She will nevertheless continue on as a board member.

4. Election of directors (4 vacancies).

Martijn introduced the four candidates to the membership. Two candidates, Martijn Dekker and Stephen Miller, were recommended for re-election by the Autscope board. One candidate, Peter Benie (in absentia – with apologies) had been co-opted during the year and was recommended for election by the Autscope Board. One candidate, Kalen (in absentia), was nominated by Elaine Binhammer.

Martijn and Stephen answered some questions, particularly with regards to the skills each candidate would bring to the board. Much attention was focused around whether the candidates were autistic or not. Elaine explained that it was not Autscapes policy to ask for a diagnosis but up to the individuals to declare a diagnosis if they wanted to.

After much discussion, the membership voted for the following individuals to remain, or to become, directors of The Autscope Organisation: Kalen, Martijn, Peter, and Stephen.

5. Any other business.

6. There was a vote of thanks to all of the Autscope Directors

7. A member recommended that the requirement that hands being raised should be more strictly enforced. It was suggested that people needed reminders to be quiet during the AGM because some people find it difficult to hear what is going on.

8. The Goth (in absentia) mentioned that 25 people (friends and people from Asperger United) would have liked to come to Autscope but this year it was full.

9. Larry noted that it would not be advisable that Autscope grows beyond a manageable level.

Meeting adjourned