

Minutes of the 2016 ASDC AGM

27th September 2016

Hosted by The Royal Society

3.30 - 5.30 pm Chaired by Chas Bishop, ASDC Chair

Welcome and Thanks

ASDC Chair Chas Bishop welcomed all members to the AGM, and thanked The Royal Society for hosting the conference.

Chas Bishop invited all delegates to ask questions.

Chas Bishop also thanked the ASDC trustees, CEO Dr Penny Fidler and executive team for their work over the past year.

CEO's summary of the year by Dr Penny Fidler

Dr Penny Fidler thanked everyone for attending,

Dr Penny Fidler introduced the ASDC team

Dr Penny Fidler thanked all of the trustees and delivered the summary of the 2015/16 year and reported on the following highlights:

- ASDC achieved 30 million for science centres
- ASDC is currently running 6 national strategic programmes:

National Astronaut programme – Destination Space

- Great national spread with 20 centres
- 491,244 participants of which 73,174 were school children
- 2 training academies
- Space agency capital funding awarded to centres.
- Penny Fidler passed on Tim Peake's thanks to all centres delivering Destination Space

The Crunch

- 9 Centres taking part
- A year of activities to engage audiences with Our Food, Our Health, Our Planet
- Aardman game was developed and has now been nominated for an awards
- Aim was to engage hard to reach audiences

Hypatia (EU Horizon 2020 Project)

- Inspiring Girls into science
- ASDC are the UK lead partner
- Penny Fidler invited delegate to speak to Shaaron Leverment if they wish to take part

Cimulact (EU Horizon 2020 Project)

- Citizens Dialogue on their visions for the future – to inform funding of EU Horizon 2020

Explore Your Universe

- 20 centres delivering the programme
- Inspiring audiences with physics and engaging people with STFC innovative science
- Phase 3 has just been agreed
- Techniquet Glyndwr join the Explore Your Universe family

Other activities

- Museum of the Moon – developed by Luke Jerram
- In the process of 2 other national programmes to be confirmed

- Penny Fidler highlighted that ASDC main source of income is through Programmes

Lobbying

- Inspiring Science
 - In January it was announced that BIS and Wellcome would input funds
 - 14th October is the deadline for the preliminary applications
- Science communication enquiry was held
 - Penny Fidler was on the panel
 - One question asked was do we have the premise 'do no harm'

Penny Fidler thanked everyone and asked the floor for questions. No questions were raised

Approval of minutes of last AGM

Terry O'Connor voted that the minutes be approved
 Bryan Davies seconded
 Minutes approved

Presentation and consideration of annual accounts for 2015/16

Phil Winfield (ASDC Treasurer) presented the Treasurer's report and annual accounts 2015-16, Phil Winfield asked everyone to look at their delegate packs for details

Income

- Core funding – no core funding is sought by ASDC
- PW highlighted that project funding is the only way forward at present
- Subscriptions have dropped however the ASDC are working to improve membership
- Total income is 995,063

Expenditure

- Total expenditure £783,779
- This directly correlates to an increase in project funding

Reserves

- Total reserves are £372,638
- Phil Winfield highlighted that this was a year-end number and some of these funds are from projects that will roll onto the following financial year
- Reserves are monitored by the board during quarterly meetings
- The main reason the reserves are high at the moment as there is project money that has yet to be spent
- The board look at the uncommitted reserves which look healthy

Phil Winfield noted that the ASDC team have a lot of work to do that is not covered by core funding. The project work enable this work to take place, however it is always an area that requires attention

- Full accounts are available online
- Phil Winfield thanked Penny Fidler and the ASDC team
- Phil Winfield thanked Chris and Gill Godden
- Phil Winfield thanked auditors

Phil Winfield asked for any questions

- Bryan Davies asked about uncommitted reserves
- Phil Winfield they are 20K up for 2014/15 and continues to grow
- Bryan Davies asked as the reserves have grown, where do you put your reserves as interest is so low?
- Terry O'Connor noted that there is a limit to when the reserves drop to 100,000 a trigger point is reached
- Phil Winfield noted we are still a going concern

Dr Anita Shaw voted the accounts should be approved

Liz Hodge seconded

Thanks to Corrigan Associates. Approval to go out to tender for auditors for future years.

AGM has to approve going out to tender for auditors

Phil Winfield sought proposal to go out to tender

Leigh-Anne Stradeski proposed that the application for auditors should go out to tender

Terry O'Connor and Karen Davies seconded

Introduction of the current Trustees

Current ASDC Trustees introduced themselves to the members present

Anita Shaw, Techniquist

Karen Davies, Science museum

Leigh-Anne Stradeski, Eureka! The National Children's Museum

Bryan Davies, Cataylst Science Discovery Centre

Liz Hodge, Aberdeen Science Centre

Elections to the ASDC Trustee Board

Each year elections are held for members to stand for the ASDC Trustee Board. The term is 3 years, and each year approximately a third of current trustees retire or stand for re-election. All those standing for election had their manifestos displayed on-line in advance and circulated to members.

Chas Bishop asked all delegates standing for election and re-election to present their bio to the AGM delegates

Each candidate presented their election statement.

All member seeking re-election and election for the board presented to the group:

- Terry O'Connor, Head of Communications, Science and Technology Facilities Council
- Scot Owen, Education Manager, Techniquist Glyndwr
- Linda Leuchars, Interim Chief Executive, Dundee Science Centre
- Adrian Lutton, Head of Exhibitions, Design and Marketing, W5

For details see online bio

Scott Owen, Techniquist Glyndŵr is standing for re-election and reintroduced himself to the delegates

Bryan Davies nominated

Terry O'Connor seconded

Terry O'Connor, STFC is standing for re-election and reintroduced himself to the delegates

Anita Shaw nominated

Leigh-Anne Stradeski Seconded

Linda Leuchars, Dundee Science Centre, standing for election and introduced herself to the delegates

Terry O'Connor nominated, added that as acting CEO she has had to take over in difficult circumstances and

brought a lot of experience to the board
Scot Owen seconded
Penny Fidler provided a gift for Louise

Adrian Lutton, W5 is standing for election and introduced himself
Karen Davies nominated
Liz Hodge seconded

Chas Bishop noted that he was extremely grateful for being chair of ASDC with an excellent board.

Member Discussion: AOB

Chas Bishop asked the group for questions

Hermione Cockburn, Dynamic Earth

Core funding: How far has ASDC got in identifying any core funding and how likely is it?

- Penny Fidler responded that there was a core funder of 57,000 by BIS which ended in 2009
- Penny Fidler noted that it was relatively easy to get project funding compared with core funding and that if anyone knew funders that may be interested in providing core funding, to let her know.
- Penny Fidler noted that ASDC is in a good position with funders approaching ASDC for project funding.
- Chas Bishop noted that the current model currently works well but it is noted that is project funding does not come in it causes a concern.
- Terry noted that money is incredibly tight, but cautioned that is the need to demonstrate the value of present funding has allowed ASDC to showcase positively
- Bryan Davies, Catalyst suggested that during good times, ASDC should increase marketing budget to try and highlight future core funders. Should ASDC do more marketing
- Chas Bishop recommend putting it on the agenda for the next board meeting

Terry O'Connor, STFC

Membership criteria: If the market is tight should we look at mergers and acquisitions of other membership organisations in order to deliver a single voice.

- Terry O'Connor suggested that we should be trying to help other organisations
- Penny Fidler responded that Shaaron Leverment is past BAP President and is now deputy CEO. The ASDC contact database is being revamped and Shaaron Leverment is now able to look at improving new relations and extending memberships.
- Shaaron Leverment noted that there are many smaller centres, and ASDC needs to address what the membership of ASDC means for them

Terry O'Connor noted that the AGM should extend their appreciation to Penny Fidler and the ASDC team for the work that they do.

Chas Bishop seconded.

The formal proceedings of AGM were closed and this was followed by an informal members questions and answers session.