

Minutes of the 2013 ASDC AGM

Wednesday 25th September, 2013

The Fellow's Room, Science Museum

3 - 5pm Chaired by Dr Teresa Anderson, MBE, ASDC Chair

See attendee list below

<p>Welcome and Thanks</p> <p>ASDC Chair Dr Teresa Anderson welcomed all members to the AGM, and thanked The Science Museum for hosting the conference. TA also thanked the ASDC trustees, CEO Dr Penny Fidler and executive team for their work over the past year.</p>
<p>Chair's Report by Dr Teresa Anderson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA overviewed the successes of ASDC across the year, noting the ASDC is a major player in sector, with 20 million visitors a year and around 2 million school visits. The map is key to conveying what ASDC is. ASDC is the largest network delivering hands on science engagement with a key role to play to push forward the STEM agenda. • Important time to take stock, on the eve of conference, with an amazing roster of speakers. Gives an indication of ASDC's influence. Very good for 4th year of operation. • Challenges and opportunities facing us. Getting key, strategic learning outcomes from our strategic projects. Generating a real sense of how we can contribute to knowledge base. • Penny was congratulated for her hard work over the last 4 years, especially on the lobbying. • Funding environment is difficult and we will have to adapt. The board will be looking at the business model for ASDC during up-coming strategy day.
<p>Approval of minutes</p> <p>Minutes from the 2011 AGM were approved as an accurate record (these are on-line)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed by Terry O'Connor • Seconded by Ian Simmons • Minutes approved.
<p>Presentation of the CEO's report by Dr Penny Fidler</p> <p>Dr Penny Fidler, ASDC CEO, reported on the successes of the year,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three separate events. 180 booked for conference. Our biggest yet. Thanks to the SM for hosting, and Anthony and his team for their support. • ASDC vision and mission reviewed. • 20 million visitors. • 4th year in operation. Small team plus amazing board of trustees. • 7% of income comes from membership fees, hence discussions about business model. • Reserves are at the same level they were at 2 years ago. • Lobbying and advocacy – most members won't see this. Supported by groups e.g. education group, partners and of course science centres. Marketing group organised promotion in Sunday mail. • It would be great if more our members submitted to Select committee inquiries.

- Fostering knowledge exchange across the UK. E.g. conferences & other meetings, leadership calls etc. Penny urged those directly involved in meetings and projects to tell peers about what we're doing – they don't often see what's happening if they're not directly involved.
- Introduced and thanked Martin Williams, chair of The ASDC Marketing Group, and Bridget Holligan and Linda Leuchars co-chairs of ASDC Education Group.
- Leadership calls are 1.5 hours of pure knowledge exchange.
- ASDC delivering national strategic programmes. Partnership with STFC, which has been fantastic. Explore your universe. Strength of partnerships.
- Previously Hands-on DNA with amazing evaluation results. Training, equipping and embedding
- Wellcome are launching an informal science learning infographic at the conf tomorrow.
- Our website has most details, reports, handbooks etc on it – but we will be increasingly using twitter, so follow us on that, and we have a linked in group also.
- ASDC will be setting up an initiative to encourage mps to visit science centres and we anticipate creating an APPG
- PF thanked sponsors, Wellcome Trust and STFC.

Financial Report, Audit Process and Approval of Accounts

- Peter Trevitt (Treasurer) presented the Treasurers report and annual accounts 2012-13, noting that the majority of income is from projects which ASDC bids for competitively. The membership fee brings in only 18K and this is the entire core funding contribution.
- Peter Trevitt thanked Chris Godden, Penny Fidler and executive team and board.
- Peter Trevitt recommended the 2012-13 ASDC Accounts for approval
- **Accounts approved by members present**
- Corrigan associates were thanked for carrying out the reduced audit.. Peter recommended that they be submitted and approved. Trustees have already approved them.
- **Peter Trevitt proposed the re-appointment of Corrigan Associates as the auditors for the Independent examination. This was approved by members present**
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- **Discussion**
- Reserves slightly down on last year but about the same as the year before that. Breaking even over 2 years. Amber warning for trustees – striving to increase that. Stubborn challenge. We'll be looking again at this problem and possible solutions to improve reserves at strategic meeting. Cautionary note. Something that trustees and members need to work together to remedy.
- income from subscriptions –dipped in accounts. Peter answered that it is down to phasing. membership fees now go by financial year not calendar year as before. Fees are now up to date – around 33k (report shows 6k). Peter noted difficult decision of board of increasing fees. Not all members have re-joined but new members have joined so not a massive impact. But still only contributes 15%. Penny noted there are 2 groups that didn't renew – some national museums who were told no subscriptions and tiny museums. Others noted it's same with local councils – so not about the level of fee.
- member asked about extending the membership, science centres make up a small part, how can be broaden members e.g. universities.

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 on-line in advance and circulated to members.

The following Trustees retired (or retired since the last AGM) and were thanked by the ASDC Chair:

- Dr Anne Hunt
- Ian Simmons

There are a maximum of 16 Trustees allowable on the ASDC Board. This year, combined with the current trustees, we had space on the board for all those standing for election, thus a vote was not held. Each candidate presented their election statement Penny Fidler conducted the election process as ASDC Chair and Treasurer were standing

Members approved the appointment of the following Trustees:

- Teresa Anderson was re-standing
- Peter Trevitt was re-standing
- Louise Smith was re-standing
- Terry O'Connor was standing (though co-opted previously on board)
- Verena Cornwall was standing for the first time
- Scot Owen was standing for the first time

For names of Trustees centres, please see the attendee list

- New trustees were welcomed on to board by Teresa
- Penny, on behalf of the network, thanked
 - Martin Williams was thanked for chairing the ASDC marketing group,
 - Anthony Richards was thanked for setting up whole event and enthusiasm
 - Heather Mayfield was thanked.
 - Anthony's team, Scott, Adam and Mai Lin
 - ASDC team
- At 16:22 the formal proceedings of AGM were closed.
- this was followed by an informal members questions and answers

Attendees

The AGM was open to all Conference Delegates.

A full list of attendees was not taken at the AGM

	ASDC Board members and those standing for election	Delegate
1.	Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre	Dr Teresa Anderson
2.	At Bristol	Phil Winfield
3.	Centre for Life	Ian Simmons
4.	Glasgow Science Centre	Dr Stephen Breslin
5.	Independent Consultant	Dr Anne Hunt
6.	Science Museum, London	Anthony Richards
7.	Techniquist	Peter Trevitt
8.	Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum	Dr Kenny Webster
9.	Winchester Science Centre	Verena Cornwall
10.	Techniquist Glyndwr	Scot Owen
11.	Dundee Science Centre	Louise Smith
12.	Eureka! The National Children's Museum	Leigh-Anne Stradeski
13.	STFC	Terry O'Connor
	ASDC executive (All Present at AGM)	
14.	ASDC CEO	Dr Penny Fidler
15.	ASDC	Madelon Foard
16.	ASDC	Dr Michaela Livingstone
17.	ASDC Honorary Fellow	Colin Johnson
	Remaining conference delegates, a subset of whom attended the AGM	
18.	At-Bristol	Dan Bird
19.	At-Bristol	Bonnie Buckley
20.	Cambridge Science Centre	Gaetan Lee
21.	Dundee Science Centre	Lauren Boath
22.	Eden Project	Robyn Cummins
23.	Imperial College London	Dr Jenna Stevens-Smith
24.	Katalytik Ltd	Dr Jan Peters
25.	Martin Williams (Chair of ASDC Marketing Group)	Martin Williams Marketing Ltd
26.	Natural History Museum	Andy Lee
27.	Natural History Museum	Jan English
28.	Natural History Museum	John Jackson
29.	Royal Society of Chemistry	Pauline Meakins
30.	RAL	Dr Sophy Palmer
31.	Satrosphere	John Law
32.	Science Oxford	Dom McDonald
33.	Science Oxford	Bridget Holligan
34.	STFC	Dan Hillier
35.	STFC	Dr Robin Clegg