

## Minutes of the 2019 ASDC AGM

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
The Smith Centre, Science Museum, London  
11.30am – 1pm

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| <p><b>Welcome and Chair's report, Chas Bishop (ASDC Chair)</b></p>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASDC Chair, Chas Bishop (CEO of The National Space Centre) welcomed all members to the AGM and invited all delegates to ask questions during the meeting.</li> <li>• He specifically noted that this is the opportunity for members and non-members to assess the ASDC purpose, whether the balance of representing science centres, delivering services for members, running projects and securing funding is the correct balance.</li> <li>• The chair highlighted the lack of sensible working hours within the ASDC team as an issue to keep in mind when discussing the future roles for ASDC</li> <li>• Chas Bishop subsequently outlined the structure of the meeting ahead.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>CEO's summary report of the year, Dr Penny Fidler (ASDC CEO)</b></p>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASDC CEO, Dr Penny Fidler formally welcomed ~150 delegates ~45 speakers and session hosts to the ASDC AGM and 2019 Conference.</li> <li>• Penny introduced the ASDC vision and mission and noted the opportunity for large national and strategic change as an astonishing privilege and power of our sector.</li> <li>• The roles of ASDC and activities over the year were outlined as below:</li> </ul> <p><b>Advocacy Roles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £30 million Inspiring Science Fund. 12 centres have been awarded, various amounts in different parts of the country. Noted it was a 2-3 year process to secure the £20 million and that they were particularly delighted when Wellcome with an additional £10 million. This was and is still the largest injection of money to the sector for 20 years.</li> <li>• Visiting Number 10 with Operation Earth, including conversation with the Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth – a celebration and discussion on environment and climate.</li> <li>• ASDC sits on the National Forum for Public Engagement in STEM, chaired by Wellcome. This also involves a large STEM networking event that takes place each year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Events and Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASDC 2018 National Conference</li> <li>• Networking Dinners</li> <li>• Host of Training Academies and project meetings</li> <li>• Cross sector Leadership calls</li> </ul> <p><b>Staffing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently staff is 2.6, due to recent staff changes.</li> <li>• Currently ASDC has 2 extra temporary members of staff, Katie Whitehouse and Cait Campbell, supporting with the conference organisation and administration of the charity.</li> </ul> |  |

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| <p><b><u>Current Funded ASDC National STEM Programmes: (recently secured)</u></b></p> <p>Penny introduced the national strategic programmes which aim to democratise the new and best ways of working and share approaches across the network. An important part of the projects are the large-scale evaluation of the programmes. Penny invited all to visit the <a href="#">website</a> to find out more about each project in detail, but provided the summary below of programmes working in 2 core areas:</p> <p><b>ASDC Environmental Programmes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Operation Earth, funded by NERC. The funding completed, but the project continues. 210,639 children and adults took part to explore the latest environmental science. 37,145 met and talked to environmental scientists. This programme was run by 11 centres across the UK.</li> <li>2. EARTH, with Luke Jerram. Bringing a wider audience to contemplate the fragility of the Earth</li> <li>3. The Secret World of Gases, funding by the Royal Society of Chemistry and BOC. Another programme that focused on environmental science and gases for a cleaner future.</li> </ol> <p><b>ASDC Inclusion Programmes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Science Capital in Practice, as part of The Science Engagement Academy with the Science Museum.</li> <li>5. Explore Your Universe, Now in Phase 4. Phase 1, showed no different between boy and girls because of the way the programme was designed. Phase 3 reached out into communities. Phase 4, highlights the importance of equitable partnership and has produced new evaluation tools.</li> <li>6. EU Horizon 20:20 Hypatia: Girls into Science &amp; CIMULACT.</li> <li>7. Destination Space, now in Phase 2B + new Spaceports, ExoMars, satellite applications, James Webb Space telescope. 914,646 took part in Phase 1. Penny thanked the Space Centre in particular.</li> <li>8. Space Ports in communities, a special programmes in partnership with Scottish, Welsh and Cornish communities (pre selected) Large and remote regions.</li> <li>9. Moon50, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Moon landings and celebrating events taking place across the sector. <a href="http://www.Moon50.uk">www.Moon50.uk</a></li> <li>10. Museum of the Moon, with Luke Jerram. Recently seen on Strictly Come Dancing and Glastonbury.</li> </ol> |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chas asked for questions/comments from the floor (none arising).</li> <li>• Chas thanked and congratulated the ASDC core team and noted his appreciation for the vision.</li> </ul>  |  |

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| <b>Approval of minutes of last meeting</b>   |              |
| All trustees approved that the minutes from April 2019 were accurate.  | All Trustees |
| <b>Presentation and consideration of annual accounts for 2018/19, Chris Godden (ASDC Finance Director) and Liz Hodge (ASDC Treasurer and CEO Aberdeen Science Centre)</b>  |              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Godden and Liz Hodge presented the accounts for 2018-2019.</li> <li>Income and expenditure are down from the previous year (Income: £441,774, Expenditure: £444,305. There is a net deficit of £2530.</li> <li>All the reserves of £312,253 are unrestricted.</li> <li>Project income is down (due to timing).</li> <li>Subscription income is slightly up, but this is only £32,350 and constitutes a small part of ASDC income</li> <li>Other Income includes £29,000 for the annual conference</li> <li>The biggest change is the Inspiring Science development fees which has provided ~£20,000 within Other income.</li> <li>Project income (and therefore also project expenditure) are both down from previous year.</li> <li>Costs of provision of services is slightly down due to staff numbers.</li> <li>Governance costs, the fee is the same but expect an increase next time</li> <li>Reserves are slightly down (£312,253 from £314 from last year)</li> </ul> |              |
| <p>Liz Hodge stated she was delighted with the presentation of accounts and Chris Godden thanks Liz for her support as ASDC treasurer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chas invited questions/comments from the floor (none arising).</li> <li>Chas moved to vote to formally adopt the accounts.</li> <li>Ben Ward proposed the approval of the accounts</li> <li>Scot Owen seconded the approval of the accounts.</li> </ul>  |              |
| <b>Approval to re-tender for the auditors, Chris Godden (ASDC Finance Director)</b>  |              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Godden recommended it would be prudent to get a fresh look at the accounts.</li> <li>Liz Hodge proposed.</li> <li>Bridget seconded this proposal.</li> </ul>  |              |
| <b>Introduction to the current Trustees of ASDC, Chas Bishop (ASDC Chair)</b>  |              |
| <p>Chas Bishop highlighted that we must continue to avoid bias, keep a strong geographical spread and gender balance within the board of trustees. Introductions to trustees present included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liz Hodge, CEO Aberdeen Science Centre</li> <li>Stephen Breslin, Chief Executive, Glasgow Science Centre</li> <li>Tudor Gwynn, Operations and Projects Director, Eureka! The National Children's Museum</li> <li>Scot Owen, Education Manager, Techniquet Glyndwr/Xplore!</li> <li>Chas Bishop, CEO, The National Space Centre</li> <li>Bridget Holligan, Director of Education and Engagement, Science Oxford</li> <li>Karen Davies, Head of Learning Research and Resources, Science Museum Group</li> <li>Alison Robinson, Director of Corporate Affairs, NERC, Swindon</li> <li>Ben Ward, CEO, Winchester Science Centre &amp; Planetarium</li> </ul>  |              |
| <b>Trustee Elections</b>   |              |
| <p>Chas Bishop introduced the trustees retiring by rotation and standing for re-election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scot Owen standing for re-election.</li> </ul> <p>Scot's statement noted that he had been part of the board of trustees for ASDC for 6 years. He highlighted the value of ASDC bringing the sector together and working for every single one of the members. Scot represents a relatively small Science Centre on the board and the value of having Wales represented on the ASDC board was also noted. His centre is growing, and he attributed some of that growth as supported by ASDC (Inspiring Science fund and project funding) and is keen to give back to ASDC.</p>  |              |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The re-election of Scot Owen was put to an open vote with no abstentions – unanimously approved.</li> </ul> <p>Chas introduced a new trustee standing for election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donna Speed, CEO of We The Curious.<br/>Donna’s statement noted that she has worked at We The Curious (formerly At-Bristol Science Centre) for 20 years. She expressed feeling passionately that centres have never been more needed when looking at divided societies and the climate emergency, and that ASDC can support and encourage collaboration, sharing and progress together.</li> <li>• The election of Donna Speed was put to an open vote with no abstentions – unanimously approved.</li> </ul> <p>Chas noted the following trustees who are standing down from their current positions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Hodge is standing down from the board of trustees and as the ASDC treasurer.</li> <li>• Terry O’Connor retired from the board of trustees during the course of the year.</li> <li>• Linda Leuchars left her role as an ASDC trustee during the summer 2018.</li> <li>• Scot Owen will now replace Liz as the ASDC treasurer.</li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>Introducing the new Chair of ASDC</b></p>   |  |
| <p>At the end of the 2019 AGM, Chas Bishop retired as the ASDC Chair and Ben Ward, CEO of Winchester Science Centre &amp; Planetarium, takes over as the new Chair of ASDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penny formally thanked Chas for 4 years (which included an extra year as Chair). She noted it had been wonderful having him as the Chair of ASDC, as a huge support for the team and an excellent sounding board of wise council.</li> <li>• Penny also thanked all retiring trustees for their support and expertise.</li> <li>• Ben Ward thanked the ASDC team and recorded his continued appreciation for all ASDC does and for the wider supporting trustees.</li> <li>• Chas formally stepped down and Ben thanked all members present and closed the AGM</li> </ul>   |  |
| <p><b>Close of AGM</b><br/>Then followed and informal members discussion not recorded in the AGM minutes.</p>   |  |