Minutes of a Meeting

Held at

Walsall Society for the Blind

[7-11 Hatherton Road](https://www.google.com/maps/search/7-11%2BHatherton%2BRoad%C2%A0%2BWalsall.%2BWS1%2B1XS?entry=gmail&source=g)

[Walsall. WS1 1XS](https://www.google.com/maps/search/7-11%2BHatherton%2BRoad%C2%A0%2BWalsall.%2BWS1%2B1XS?entry=gmail&source=g)

Saturday 10th May 2025

at

11.00am-1pm

Present :

Steve Mellor, Dee Dewhurst & Guide Dog Mojo, Harjit Hayer, Claire Evans, Paul Evans, Andy Dewhurst, Richard Evans, Paige Edwards, Tim Clifft, Ade, Kim Bate, Joan Foster, Claudia Marks,

Apologies:

Craig Bates, Stella Bates, Denise Evans, Cliff Warrender, Anita Warrender, Denise Lukomona.

Welcome and Notices

Dee. welcomed everyone and gave a special welcome back to our chairperson Steve Mellor and said that he and the family had been in the their thoughts due to the very difficult they had gone through in the past six months.

Dee then opened the meeting and let the members know that in the gents toilets, the urinal was out of use so just the 2 cubIcles available. No Fire Drills planned though Dee reminded everyone of the fire exits.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting was agreed as a true and accurate copy

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Action list from last meeting

Dee said that a couple of things outstanding from the last meeting was the trips and events that we are planning later in the year and also the promotional goods which Dee asked Claire if she had now received the quotes on the flyers.posters and other promotional items. Clare said that Neil had confirmed the prices which she read out at the meeting as the director's had confirmed they were happy with the figures and also authorized for the table cloth to be purchased.

Chairs Report

Steve wants to get back to the Council as they've done nothing regarding the feedbackgiven from Steve and Craig.. Amanda sent an email to Ann King with questions unanswered so Steve will await the outcome. Steve then mentioned that Joyce's funeral donation to Walsall Eyes had raised £500.

Dee thanked Steve and his family on behalf of all Directors and Members and said that Joyce was a very valued and well loved member and she will be sincerely missed by us all.

Steve then mentioned funding for 2025 and that an application will be forwarded to Green Square Accord where we can apply for up to £2000. This can cover well being activity so we try get it for the Southport trip, it may be worth trying.

Secretary's Report

Dee mentioned that a new phone plan for £5 per month, with Vodaphone had been set up following the go ahead at the last meeting, so this is is up as he running. hopefully this will bring some interest.

 Dee also mentioned that Paige had asked if she could hold an Easter raffle at the Black Country Arms. Dee informed the meeting that both Black Country Arms and Paige had made such a great achievement and raised £285. On behalf of all Directors and Members Dee thanked Paige and asked her to pass on the out there to BCA.

Treasurer's Report

Harjit explained that as regards updating Charity Commissioners following our AGM and the other yearly tasks, this has now been completed, Harjit then gave the account balance which stands at £5788.84.

Refreshments - Break

PR Report - Craig

Craig has asked me to fill everyone in on a few things. His headline is the Alexa skills which he is working on for the website. and at the moment reads the news, stories, and events from the website as well as details about the charity. Craig has ideas in the pipeline for it such as allowing Directors to post voice messages and type in to the notification system which will help us to reach more people who struggle with email, websites etc. if anyone has any ideas or wants to be involved in testing the Alexa skill please let Dee know and she will relay to Craig. Craig has also added stories or articles to the website particularly around Paige’s fantastic work raising money for Walsall Eyes, he's also done some security updates behind the scenes to keep us safe and compliant with the latest standards etc he is in need of some photos to brighten it up so if anyone has any please send them to him. Dee said she was very much at fault as she needed to send the Easter raffle photos to Craig after he had requested them some weeks ago, Dee will get those sent over to him. Craig also wanted to share some details with everyone relating to the NHS report that he helped to imput last September. He says that if anyone would like the full report, to let Dee know and we'll get that sorted for you.

Finally, hot off the press, is news of 2 new Communication Hubs in Walsall, with the two words ‘touch screen’, filling Craig with dread. Seems they offer free WiFi, phone charging,access to internet and phone calls etc., but will obviously be completely inaccessible to us! Has anyone else heard about these? Craig will find out as much as he can about them.

Events & Planning Officer Report -

Claire began by saying that events and fundraising for 2025 would include days out, lunches, trips etc. we're happy to do our usual events but would love some new ideas from members. Dee said though we are always happy to do our usual Skittles evening, bowling and Christmas party, it would be lovely to have some new ideas.

Claire suggested a trip to Southport in July and said she would get some quotes. The meeting seemed very happy with this. Claire discussed the big event she would like to plan and said she would invite stallholders to have a table at our Summer event. She and Dee are putting together ideas and welcome anyone who would like to help also. Hoping for food, emergency services, entertainment, tombola and Charity stalls etc. Claire would relay back to the group at the next meeting.

Research & Media Report <

Paul let the meeting know that he is really keen to get going with visiting hospitals, gp practices, opticians, companies etc. Paul and Steve are hoping to get into the new medical practice next door with a view to links and information. Paul will have a stand, a table with Walsall Eyes tablecloth, leaflets and other promotional items. He is just awaiting these items then he can go and visit various venues and deliver his presentation. Dee suggested that if he is presenting to large numbers or has a big event, a volunteer(s) should attend to help out on the stand and support him. Dee also suggested visiting sheltered accommodations, Carers Clinics etc may also prove successful. Paul went on to say that he will not be selling anything due to falling under the need to apply for a licence so he is making a point of letting everyone know he is just delivering his presentation to promote Walsall Eyes and not selling anything as this would mean we require a licence.

AOB

Steve said it would be good to get Guest Speakers at our meetings once again, Je suggested someone come in to discuss benefits and keep us up to date on the latest developments. Dee said she would do what she can to get hold of some speakers.

Paul suggested a Skittles evening and asked is Steve if he was up for doing another one soon. Steve said he was happy to do it and Saturday 21st June was put forward for a Skittles night.

Date of next meeting

7th June 2025

Close of Meeting 1.30pm.