

Minutes of the Twenty Second Annual General Meeting

1:10 pm on Friday 27th April 2018
Jamyang Buddhist Centre, 43 Renfrew Rd
London, SE11 4NA

Present:

Chair	Ned Seabrook
Company Secretary	Bob MacKenzie
Directors (Trustees/Council Members)	David McAra
Members	Tony Page Donal Carroll Chris Rodgers
Non-Members	Heather Day
Office Support:	Linda Williams (Administration & Bookkeeping)
Proxy votes received from:	Rowena Davis Irene MacWilliam Sheila James Julie Allan Rob Warwick

The meeting was quorate with 6 members present and 5 proxy votes.

1 Welcome and Apologies

Ned Seabrook, AMED's Chair, opened the meeting by asking everyone to say a few words about their work and where they come from.

Apologies were received from Shelagh Doonan, Roger Niven, David Shepherd, Roger Noon, and members who returned their proxy form.

2. Approval of Minutes from AGM for year ending 2016

Ned asked if there were any points in the Minutes on which clarification was required. The Minutes were approved by consensus.

3. Presentation and approval of Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 2017

Ned Seabrook summarised the Annual Accounts for year ending 2017, we have 89 full paying members and made a surplus of £967. We have £19,197 total funds available to secure greater engagement with our members and the public. The Accounts are also available on the website www.amed.org.uk.

3.1 The year-end Accounts were approved by acclamation and were signed by AMED's Chair and Company Secretary following this meeting.

3.2 Chair's Report

Ned read out his Chair's Report, a copy of which has been placed on the AMED website. He focused on the review of 2017 saying 'Growth, for AMED, is not only about numbers but also about the levels, range and quality of engagement across the spectrum of activity'.

He thanked Bob MacKenzie and David McAra for their efforts with producing AMED's quarterly online journal, *e-O&P*, and linking up with like-minded individuals and organisations. Ned also thanked Linda for her great customer service and work on the Accounts over the year. Under the aegis of our Editorial Board (David McAra and Bob MacKenzie), we have continued wherever appropriate to couple editions with pre- and/or post-publication workshops and other such gatherings to enable further rich conversations on topics covered. He thanked everyone present, the Membership and all our Networkers, Guests and other collaborators for the interest they continue to take in our charitable efforts.

3.3 As Company Secretary, Bob expressed his appreciation for the work Ned has done regarding AMED finances during the year.

4. Information collaboration between AMED and ISBE (Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship)

Bob explained that we have worked with four key organisations over the past 18 months. Two joint ISBE/AMED Writing Support Workshops have taken place. An e-O&P edition is planned with the Humanistic Management Network and University of Chichester. Jafar Akhavan-Moossavi, from IFAL (International Foundation for Action Learning) will join our post-AGM Workshop.

5. Appointment of Independent Accountants

After seeking quotes from several accountants, it was agreed that we remain with Prentis & Co, our existing accountants, as their rates are competitive. Their fees for examining the 2017 accounts were not as high as they were for checking the previous year's accounts.

6. Election of new Council Members and re-election of continuing Council Members

6.1 As Company Secretary, Bob took the chair briefly to oversee the annual election of Council Members. No new nominations have been received. Council Members can be co-opted during the year. The existing Council Members David McAra, David Shepherd, Bob MacKenzie and Ned Seabrook offered themselves for re-election, which provides a degree of continuity whilst the search for fresh blood and diversity continues. They were re-elected by acclamation. Discussions on our future plans will take place in the post-AGM workshop. We will look at operating with co-chairs and rotating the role with our existing Trustees to satisfy Charity Commission requirements.

6.2 Ned then took back the chair and said he is happy for any Members to join in on future Council Meetings (mainly Skype conference calls) or take on a Supporter role. We continue to search for fresh faces. Rob Warwick and Rowena Davis will continue as Supporters. Melanie Greene stood down in this capacity earlier this year to focus on another voluntary role.

7. Bank Signatories

Ned Seabrook, Linda Williams and Bob MacKenzie were appointed as bank signatories for the AMED bank accounts.

8. Any Other Business

Chris Rodgers asked about preparations for the new GDPR that becomes law on 25th May. Linda explained that GDPR is an agenda item on Council Skype conference calls. She has attended training sessions and we will shortly ask our Membership and Supporters to review their communication settings on the AMED Network website. They can opt-out at any time from receiving future emails. All membership data is held securely and not shared with third party organisations. NING, who host the AMED Network website, will soon update its privacy settings.

8. Close of Proceedings

Ned thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 1:50 pm, as a prelude to the afternoon workshop discussion on 'Re-imagining AMED: 2020 and Beyond', facilitated by Tony Page.