**Dial a Ride (Denbighshire) Ltd**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**held at**

**Rhyl Rugby & Social Club, 29th July, 2019**

Attendance:

Mr Duncan Stewart (Chairman), Cllr Andy Rutherford (Vice-Chairman & Rhyl Town Councillor), Mrs Maureen Edmondson (Treasurer), Mr Kevin Mather (Director/Trustee), Mr Philip Jones (Director/Trustee).

Chris Ruane MP, Ann Jones AM (Vale of Clwyd), Mark Isherwood AM (North Wales), Cllr Ellie Chard (The Mayor of Rhyl), Cllr Tony Flynn (The Mayor of Prestatyn), Cllr. Gaynor Wood-Tickle (The Mayor of Denbigh), Cllr Tony Thomas (Denbighshire County Council & Rhyl Town Council), Cllr Peter Morton (St Asaph City Council), Michelle Clerk (CTA).

Ms Bev Mather (Manager), Mr Tony Henman (Finance Officer/Transport Manager), Mr Chris Brammer (Secretary & Administrator)

Mrs June Godby, Mrs Carole Marks, Mr David Hatch, Mr Dave Gelson, Mr Gareth Roberts, Mr Dawson Pierce

Mrs Rose Cotton, Mrs Margaret Hedley, Mrs Monica Jelly, Mrs Phyllis Scott, Mrs Fiona Griffiths, Mrs Margaret Rose, Mrs Lyn Williams, Mrs Eva Mole, Mrs Betty Cartwright, Miss Kath Carless, Mr Mike Dawson, Mrs Marie Shackles,

Welcome:

Mr Duncan Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, welcomed Dial A Ride Members, AMs, Councillors and Staff to the Annual General Meeting. He said it was good to see so many interested people at this meeting. He said there were:

Apologies from:

Darren Millar AM, Jon Marshall (CTA), Mrs H McNeil, Mrs W Hinder, Mrs E Edwards, Mrs E Barber, who could not attend.

The Minutes of the Last AGM:

The Chairman asked the Meeting if they agreed that the minutes were an accurate account of the 2018 Meeting.

Mrs Betty Cartwright said she did not believe that the Accounts had been available at the previous meeting. Bev Mather, Manager said that they had been available and this was corroborated by Mrs Rose.

Cllr Andy Rutherford reassured Mrs Cartwright that the accounts contained in the Auditors Report had been available and had been accepted.

Cllr Ellie Chard then proposed that the Minutes of the 2018 AGM be accepted as a true and accurate reflection of that meeting. This was seconded by Mr K Mather.

**This was agreed they were and the minutes were approved unanimously**.

Mr Stewart and Board Members emphasised that The Annual Reports were made available on the Company Website and hard copies could be provided for people who requested them. They should ask the Company Secretary if they wanted a copy.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Chairman’s Report

Mr Stewart said that some of the older vehicles had been retired during the year and replaced by newer models. This had been an opportunity to look at the branding of the charity. A new logo, design and punchline have been produced which will be used on all the vehicles, on the internet and on stationery. He thanked Tony Henman and Andy Rutherford for their contribution to the process the punchline, which he wanted everyone to note: “Service with Pride”. Duncan also said that the fact that Dial a Ride is Community Transport was prominent in the re-branding.

Mr Stewart went on to expand on how DAR itself was a community. He thanked the managers, drivers and volunteers and Board Members for the hard work they had done during the previous year.

Duncan told Members that Chris Brammer would be retiring as Administrator at Christmas 2019. He thanked Chris for the work he had done during the last six years.

The Accountant’s Report

The draft of this had been received and The Chairman would be signing the Report in the presence of the accountant after the AGM.

The Chairman then introduced The Finance Officer, Mr Tony Henman, who would be able to answer questions about the printed financial summary which was available at this meeting.

Mr Henman briefly outlined the financial situation. There were no questions asked about this.

Mr Stewart thanked Tony for all the work he had done in managing the DAR finances during the past year.

Election of The Chairman and Members of The Board of Directors:

Mr Duncan Stewart indicated that he was willing to stand for election as Chairman of The Board of Directors. No other candidates put themselves forward.

**Mr Duncan Stewart was then elected unopposed as Chairman of Dial A Ride Board of Directors for 2019-2020.**

Cllr A Rutherford (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M Edmondson (Treasurer), Mr K Mather, Mr Barrie Scholfield, Miss T Griffiths and Mr P Jones had all indicated they were willing to serve as Director/Trustees of Dial A Ride (Denbighshire) Ltd in the coming year.

**The Meeting unanimously voted the above named candidates to be Board Members for the next year.**

Mr Chris Brammer had indicated his willingness to continue as Company Secretary.

**The Meeting unanimously agreed he should continue in this role in the coming year.**

Other Business:

1. Mrs Cartwright said she was pleased that The Chairman had thanked the staff and the drivers for their hard work during the year. She felt it was important that they were thanked.
2. Cllr Peter Morton said that the new design on the vehicles was impressive and really gave the company a good image.
3. Cllr Ellie Chard (Mayor of Rhyl) said she was really pleased to see the Dial A Ride vehicles in the supermarket carparks taking the ladies and gentlemen shopping. It showed real Community spirit and she said she knew many of the shoppers also used the opportunity to have a chat over coffee.
4. The Chairman reminded everyone that during the school holidays day trips had been organised. He urged Members to support them and encourage others to book.
5. Chris Ruane asked The Chairman what he felt the impact of new section 19 regulations might mean for DAR.

Mr Stewart said DAR was looking ahead at diversifying how the charity survived economically but would retain Community Transport as one arm of the business. Amongst other areas that the company was expanding was Midas training in North Wales.

Mr Henman said that DAR Community Transport would continue to operate within certain non-commercial exemptions but which would only be decided when the definitions of these had been made final.

Cllr. Andy Rutherford (Vice-chairman of DAR) said the company was focusing on working for the Community and during the past two years The Board of Directors and the managers had been looking at ways of doing this.

1. Cllr Tony Flynn (Mayor of Prestatyn) asked whether DAR had thought about Green issues and whether electric buses would be something the company would consider. He also wanted to know if DAR turned off engines and did not leave the engines idling.

Mr Henman said unfortunately mini-bus technology had not reached the stage where vehicles could travel the distances and operate the systems on them required by DAR. It was hoped that in time things would progress. He said engines were always switched off once vehicles were parked. The Chairman said that encouraging several people to use one vehicle, like a Dial A Ride bus was also a greener option than having several cars on the road.

1. The Board were asked if there was any age limit on users of Dial A Ride. The finance Officer said there were no age limits; residents could apply to become Dial A Ride Members provided they fulfilled the criteria: ie. not able to access public transport &/or by reason of impairment or disability.
2. Mark Isherwood AM. Thanked The Board and Managers of Dial A Ride for the representations they had made about the changes to Section 19 regulations. He said The Welsh Assembly had also put its views forward to the DfT.
3. Cllr Gaynor Wood-Tickle (Mayor of Denbigh) asked if there were any Dial A Ride Members resident in Denbigh. The answer was there were and the vehicles were frequently in the town.
4. Mr David Hatch asked if there was any information on the Welsh Government proposal to raise the age when people would be eligible for Bus Passes.
5. Mrs Ann Jones AM. Gave an update on the Transport for Wales consultation. She was able to say any changes had several stages to go through before they could be implemented and nothing would happen overnight. She said that she was proud to have been part the Assembly which had introduced the Bus Pass scheme, which was so important to the lives of many people in this country. She said she would be looking at any proposed changes very closely.

Mr Stewart, Chairman of Dial A Ride, asked if there were any more matters people wished to raise. There were none.

He then reminded everyone that there would be a buffet and raffle once the meeting had concluded and asked invited guests if they would join him outside for a photo shoot. Then he thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.