

Chair's Address AGM 11th March 2021

18:09:15 Opened by Lesley Weatherson Chair ALAS

Apologies

I've had apologies in from Tina Holmes.

Linzi- Karen Ward also sent her apologies.

Approval of the minutes 2020

I know they all the papers went out. Thankfully on time, about four weeks ago so hopefully you've all had a copy of the minutes and the accounts. I'll go through each page.

Nothing to change therefore please accept the minutes as factual and correct.

Can I have someone to please propose the minutes are accepted as correct.

Proposed Linzi

Seconded Kirsty

Membership

Linzi- There are so far, 27 members who have renewed for 2021 to 2022.

Two of those people are associate members with remaining 25 full members.

There are still two people were awaiting payment from the reason for that is that we moved to the Stripe payments system a few years ago, and the Stripe stored payment details have expired cards. So we can't take the money from them. We need them to either provide the new banking details to myself to update Stripe, or they can go on and do it themselves.

Those two people are aware, and I think they just had a bit of a busy week.

Chair's Update

Lesley- Welcome to everybody. It's so lovely to see you all and great turnout for this evening. What a year, it's been, it wouldn't have been the year that we had hoped for, it wouldn't have been a year that anybody could have predicted, and almost a year ago, we didn't know that it was going to be the last week of normality. The pandemic has seen us move into lockdown; I actually forgot to count which lockdown we're on now.

But it's true that in most cases, the delivery of lipspeaking has changed.

More and more work is now being done online and only a few years ago we all thought that that wasn't possible. Well, I'm hundred percent sure now that it is and in some cases we've found it's actually working better for some of our lip-readers. The change from face-to-face to online has meant that they've actually felt more comfortable and can contribute more to discussions. They've been given a voice at the table.

And thanks to you and your excellent skills at adapting under the challenging and changing circumstances, and giving up your personal time to learn how to access the online platforms. We've all, I think provided a better lip speaking service, and your skills, our skills have changed in a really positive way.

Throughout 2020, and into 2021, we've held, weekly, and then twice monthly webinars to educate, inform, support and listen to each other. This would not have been possible without Linzi, and I want to on record say a huge thank you to Linzi who had the initial idea of the peer to peer support, and the knowledge of how to set this up on zoom because without that, I don't think any of us would be where we are now; it really wouldn't have happened without her.

Thank you also to the committee who have contributed to presentations, conducted research that has allowed us all to impart knowledge to each other, and also to you to the members for turning up to the webinars.

We have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that you have had access to support and CPD as well as the socials just to check in on each other like we've done this evening.

Looking after your mental and physical health has been on the agenda throughout lockdown. And we hope that each and every one of you has benefited from that. When I think back to the early days of lockdown and the rather comical early phrases:

“You're on mute! Turn it on”

“Turn the camera we can't see you!”

“You know, top right hand corner the three dots click on it!”

“How do I pin?”

..... and the funniest one of all was “Please tell me how to make myself look like that healthy online you know the de-aging button thinggymagiggy”

I'm sure it's gotten more technical name but I've had it on mine and I've never turned it off from the beginning!

As I previously mentioned the webinars have not just taken into account the CPD opportunities needed for registrants, but also they've helped to keep some of us engaged with, you know, other human beings on relevant topics. I personally have got to know you, much more than I did before the pandemic hit us. We've had tears of joy, we've seen fear, frustration, uncertainty. Also the most far- fetched topics that have kept us all amused. Thank you to Hazel, and the ducks!

CPD

Now, some of the CPD topics that we've covered- I just picked out a couple:

- Remote working
- Social media
- Twitter
- Zoom
- Signs in context
- CPD structured and unstructured hours for revalidation
- Professional supervision
- Working in the legal domain, with jargon busting and procedures
- Terms and Conditions

- DeafBlind awareness
- Tax affairs.

We do of course at the spring conference coming up on 17th April, and the committee have decided that rather than being an expensive CPD day we'd like you to contribute a month's worth of Zoom charges to attend, which is £14.39p. So, for those who are interested in coming on the 17th of April, that's what we'd like a for a contribution please.

I'd like to move on to some of the additional successes throughout the year.

Engagements

We've lobbied on the removal of level two lipspeakers from the Scottish registers successfully. This has been significant and should allow those who are registered on either register to obtain more lip speaking work.

We continue to contribute to support requests from NRCPD, including information about the use of masks and best practices for online working.

The Practitioners forum, thank you Sue for attending last year.

CCG engagements on vaccines, stopping level 2 unregistered lipspeakers from working in NHS trusts in Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust to no fewer than 64 departmental services. And that was a huge victory for getting rid of unregistered workers. We also raised bullying online, representation has been made to the Code of Conduct complaints procedure, and the review of them both.

I had a really useful one to one with Marcus Hawthorn-the director of NRCPD regarding the issues affecting members and following this meeting members were consulted, and our collective views were represented through consultation on the following the key activities:

Priorities for NRCPD under the six strategic pillars observations on the purpose, vision, values and mission.

The new police framework to improve access the lip readers to the judicial system and that is actually ongoing now.

We added value and support to various campaigns on the topic of access for to information for deaf people, including the campaign hashtag, where is the interpreter.

I do believe that the contributions were appreciated and help to inform their strategy and policies henceforth.

We were also fortunate to have Kate price from an NRCPD come to two of our webinars to discuss the CPD proposals, and to give us all a steer of how to evidence or CPD, and even how to use the portal. I for one found the most informative. I know we all haven't moved on to the new system as yet but when we do, it's nice to know we've had some insight into the how's and why's ahead of the actual information, upload. A big thank you to Kate for giving up her time.

Training

We actually managed to have a successful bullying and harassment workshop in early 2020, followed by an online legal training course. Both were well attended and feedback was mainly positive, with a few lessons to be learned for the future.

Sadly, we've had to postpone the deaf blind level 2 training that was to happen, and we're hoping to be able to run it later this year. But obviously the nature of deaf blind training is very close-tactile communication so it's obvious why that had to be postponed.

The quarterly newsletters have continued and proved very popular with members, and again, a big thank you to Linzi for putting them together with Sophie's keen eyes on spotting the typos.

Nicole has done a great job keeping on top of membership numbers, payments and queries. Thank you to Nicole for keeping everything in order.

The website has proved to be a popular, go to place for information, and the social media account is managed by Linzi. Thank you again to Linzi for making this happen.

The videos are popular for visitors and the directory for members also attracts a high number of visitors.

Thank you to all the committee for keeping this all together throughout lockdown.

Constitution

We've updated our, our Constitution in 2021 to reflect the new subscription charges that were agreed at the last AGM 2020. The word 'additional' was left out of one line when we were talking about membership for lip speakers with additional sign.

The updated version is now available on the website.

Accounts

The accounts have been sent round and you've had a copy for your inspection.

All the start-up costs, including the website, the banner, the leaflets and promotional materials have all been repaid. And we've got a healthy set of accounts moving forward, and members have commented on how easy it is to pay using the stripe credit card option.

Committee Update/Nominations

I will be standing down as Chair. I've done my time, so to speak, it's been an honour and a privilege to establish this new and thriving Association, and I feel it's now in good shape to hand over the reins to a new Chair with the same forward thinking as me, but to someone who will also have their own ideas and a fresh look about them for developing the association and promoting best practice.

We've received the following nominations and in line with the constitutional policy, I would like to read out the nominations.

We have a new nomination for Chair, which is Linzi, so I'd like someone please to propose Lindsay for Chair.

Proposed- Bernice Arthur
Seconded Mandy Allen

Treasurer. Thank you to Kirsty for putting yourself forward to take over the reins of treasurer.

Proposed- Linzi Weatherson
Seconded Lisa Guildford

We've also had a nomination to become a committee member by Lisa.

Proposed- Lesley Weatherson
Seconded Linzi Weatherson

I will remain on the committee as a member.

The other positions will stand and there's been no further nominations received.
That concludes the new committee. Welcome aboard to Lisa.

Membership Fees

The committee have spoken about the subs and because they were increased last year, we don't intend to make any changes this year as people have had their pockets and purses hammered enough with everything that's been going on.

I'd like to end by thanking the committee for their continued hard work and commitment. Being Chair of an association can be very time consuming, and any advice or comments given must be sound and unbiased but also factual and professional. We've worked really hard as a team to ensure that this happens seamlessly. It truly is a collective effort and I'm grateful to have had a super committee keeping me on my toes for the last four years.

Thank you also to you, our members for your ongoing support and dedication to the profession.

That concludes the chairs addressed and now back to Linzi for any other business.