

# Minutes of AGM

4<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Bunyan Meeting, Bedford

## Present:

Elliott Stephenson  
Len Simkins  
Helen Turney  
Martin Trinder  
Sylvia MacDowell  
Ashfaq Shamin  
Alex Franciszkow  
Brian Cunningham

Grand Union Housing Group  
Autism Bedfordshire  
Beds Citizens Housing Association  
CVS Beds  
Money Advice at St Andrews  
Disability Resource Centre  
PBIC  
BRASS

## Apologies

Paulette Rennie  
Jo Rising  
Chera Gilbert  
Trevor Moisey  
Jenny Hedges  
Carol Madden  
Noor D'Agostino  
Sarah Broughton  
Sapphira Timperio  
Samantha Condor  
David Verney

Bedford Community Support Project  
Age UK Bedfordshire  
Disability Resource Centre  
Three Rivers Church, Bedford  
Citizen Advice Mid Bedfordshire  
Money Advice at St Andrews  
Aldwyck Housing Association  
Bedford Foodbank  
Mind BLMK  
Macmillan Welfare Rights  
Advice Bedfordshire

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## Action

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Len Simkins chaired the meeting on behalf of BAF's Steering Group.

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### 3. Presentation

#### 'Stop Loan Sharks Project'

Steve Ward, from England's Illegal Money Lending Team, gave a presentation on the above topic, which was followed by a wider discussion.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the BAF website.

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### 4. Minutes of last AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last AGM (28<sup>th</sup> June 2018) were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

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### 5. BAF Annual Report and Finance Report for 2018/19

The Annual Report, was circulated, discussed and accepted. A copy of the report can be found on the BAF website.

Proposed - Elliott  
Seconded – Len

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The Finance Report was also circulated, discussed and accepted

Proposed – Sylvia  
Seconded - Brian

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## **6. BAF Membership Fees for 2019/20**

The Steering Group proposed to keep the membership fees at the same rate:

- £35 - standard rate
- £60 - higher rate for organisations with over 100 staff
- £10 - lower rate for organisations with only volunteers and individuals

This was unanimously agreed.

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## **7. BAF Elections**

Following discussions and volunteers coming forward, the following were elected unanimously:

- Chair                    Vacant
- Member                Brian Cunningham
- Member                Elliott Stephenson
- Member                Paulette Rennie
- Member                Chera Gilbert
- Treasurer             Martin Trinder

The Steering Group will rotate the role of chair at each meeting.

Anybody else interested in joining the Steering Group were encouraged to contact Martin.

The Advice Strategy Management Group representatives were also elected unanimously:

- Jo Rising                    Age UK Bedfordshire
  - Tracy Plunkett            DRC
  - Elliott Stephenson        Grand Union Housing Group
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## **8 Any other business**

The low attendance at this meeting was discussed – It was agreed to bring the date of Steering Group meetings forward to help with planning the main meetings, alongside distributing a reminder of the meetings a month in advance.

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Documents discussed at this meeting can be found at [www.bedsadviceforum.org.uk](http://www.bedsadviceforum.org.uk)