



**Kingston Association for the Blind KAB**  
*Promoting the interests of people with sight loss in Kingston upon Thames*

**Charity registration number: 249295**

Kingston Quaker Centre, Fairfield East, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2PT  
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## **MINUTES OF THE KAB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Registration commenced 10:45am and meeting started 11:30am after the arrival of his worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames Councillor Noel Hadjimichael.

Held at the Kingston Quaker Centre, Fairfield East, Kingston KT1 2PT.

Present: Chair - Roy Smith

Trustees: Brian Gaff, Joanna Westlake, George Phillips, Olam Ray Imanuel

Staff: Odette Battarel CEO, Niro Jayawardena, Soumaya Poll, Becky Newman

40 Members present in person (including the 5 trustees).

17 proxy forms received by phone and post.

In all a quorum was achieved and the meeting went ahead.

### **Apologies for absence:**

Trustees: Joanna Turnbull, Alan Turnbull, Varun Yadav, David Robson.

All Members who sent a completed proxy form have apologised for their absence.

## **Welcome**

Roy Smith warmly welcomed the Mayor, Attendees, and the guest speaker to the AGM and briefly explained the agenda, timings for the meeting, the fire evacuation procedures, Health and Safety and advised members to turn off their mobile phones.

Roy introduced the Trustees and Staff who were present at the head table.

He established that no one present minded having their photograph being taken.

## **Attendees:**

A roll call was conducted.

Niro Jayawardena read out the list of attendees in the room and the proxy votes received.

Niro also read out the agenda and the resolutions the members were voting on at the meeting.

## **Minutes from last year's AGM 2023**

Minutes from 2024 AGM was read out by Niro Jayawardena.

The 35 members present and 17 proxy (Total 52) agreed to adopt the minutes with no objections.

Proposer: Barbara Amess    Seconded: Sheila Austin

## **Treasurer's report**

Odette Battarel, in the absences of a treasurer, gave a quick summary on the 2023/24 Annual Accounts.

Overall income £139K, made up of restricted funds £102K, unrestricted funds £37K and expenditure £112k. Net income £39K but still needs to fundraise and pleased we didn't have to touch the investments.

Odette read out the names of the main trusts and funds that have given KAB grants. Thanked all the donors and staff for organising fundraising events.

She stated that KAB must raise more funds.

Roy thanked Odette for taking up the position of the treasurer in the interim. We are looking continuing our search for a treasurer.

Proposed by Duncan Stewart and seconded by Ellie Mayor.

The 35 members present and 17 proxy (Total 52) agreed to adopt the minutes with no objections.

### **Chair's Annual Report**

Roy said the annual report has been circulated.

Roy thanked his trustees and the staff who have supported him. He briefly mentioned that the RNIB show 5000 people living with sight loss in Kingston and KAB reached only 300 to 400. Roy talked about working more closely with KVA and the community neighbourhood managers to reach more VI and Blind residents.

Roy extended his warmest thanks to all the members for coming to the AGM to support the charity and its work.

Roy also thanked all our volunteers and said how appreciative KAB are for their time and help in running our sports activities, Events and Office help.

Roy also mentioned that KAB will become a CIO, effective from the next financial year starting on 1 November 2025. The name will change in due course from KAB to KSS - Kingston Sightloss Support.

### **Election of Trustees**

Roy Smith was re-elected as chair:

The existing Trustees: Joanna Turnbull, Alan Turnbull, Varun Yadav, David Robson, Olan Ray Imanuel, were all standing again.

The 35 members present and 17 proxy (Total 52) voted unanimously, with no objections and the meeting elected them all as trustees.

### **Appointment of auditors**

KAB are still in the process of appointing new auditors and are looking for quotations. Members of the management board will confirm in due course the appointment of the new auditor.

Proposed: The 35 members present and 17 proxy (Total 52) agreed

Proposer: Duncan Stewart Seconded by: Jennifer Carpenter

### **AOB:**

No contributions or suggestions were offered by attendees or submitted by members.

Roy mentioned the Christmas Lunch, scheduled for 9 December 2025 at Glenmore House, with an expected attendance of 70–80 people. The venue, suggested by Jeff Austin and Barbara Amess, provided a generous rate.

Roy also noted next year's 60th Anniversary celebrations, to be held on 7 July 2025 at Glenmore House.

Odette and her team have been nominated for a community award and will be attending the event in the evening.

Roy reminded members that the meeting was taking place in a room used by Quakers for silent prayer and invited a few moments of silence to remember and rejoice in the lives of members who have passed away. The room observed a respectful silence.

Roy Smith closed the formal AGM at 12:20 p.m.

After the AGM, the Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Noel Hadjimichael, gave a talk about his new appointment and his plans for the coming year.

This was followed by a talk from Julian McCarthy, author of *A-Z Kingston*, and then lunch was served.

**End Of Minutes**

**Roy Smith**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Smith', written in a cursive style.

**Chair of Trustees**

