**Shared Parenting Scotland 2021 AGM Minutes**

The AGM was held in our Codogan Square office on Tuesday 30th November 2021 from 7.15 pm to 7.45pm, with further people attending online.

**Attendance and Apologies: Ian Maxwell, Alastair Williamson, Fraser Wilson, Mark Downie, Sumit Ghosh, Steven Dillon, David Haston, Judith Scullion, Salifa Joof, Barry McLeod, Tony Milne, Stephen Mitchell, Cingiz Mustapha, Laura Cousins, Gavin Watson and other people online.**

Apologies were received from Joe Mandave, Margaret Ashman, Natalie Kazimierczak

**Minutes of 2020 AGM:** The minutes of the 2020 AGM were approved without any amendments – proposed by Gavin Watson and seconded by Alastair Williamson. Agreed unanimously.

**Annual Report**: National Manager Ian Maxwell talked about the published Annual Report for 2020-21 and also on activity in the six months since March 2021. He mentioned the continued increase in support activity caused both by Covid-related issues and the promotion of our new name. More enquiries are being received from women, both from mothers and from other family members and new partners. The group meetings all went online from March 2020 and have continued online intil Seotember 2021, when we started to resume face-to-face meetings. The pattern for the future will include monthly meetings in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dunee, Aberdeen and Stirling, plus at least one online meeting and hopefully some meetings in Inverness and Dumfries.

Ian mentioned developments on training, including the range of online training courses produced with Covid funding on [www.learnsharedparenting.scot](http://www.learnsharedparenting.scot) and also our work to introduce the New Ways for Families Online training and coaching programme in Scotland.

On campaigning and policy work he mentioned the work relating to the introduction of various changes from the Children (Scotland) Act 2020, our continued organising of the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Shared Parenting, and a range of other meetings with speakers from other countries. We are gradually updating our publications in the new name, including publication of the third edition of the Guide to Representing Yourself in the Scottish Court at this meeting.

The staffing of the organisation has grown, with Mark Downie now working on the helpline, Clair Ross on training and fundraising and Fraser Wilson on digital communication. During the period we have had Grant Mackay on placement from Kelvin College and Jamie Wark on a student summer internship supported by the Robertson Trust.

Ian expressed thanks to the organisations who are our main funders, including the Tudor Trust have supported us for many years, the Scottish Government through the Children and Young Person’s Early Intervention Fund, and the Scottish Government Justice Department plus a wide range of smaller amounts from a range of trusts. We are also supported by the people who raise money for us by donations at meetings or by doing things like the Kiltwalk. He also expressed thanks to our eight trustees and also to the other volunteers who help us in many ways.

On funding, he noted that in the 2020/2021 Audited Accounts, we ended that year with a surplus of about £33,000, Some of that surplus has been spent during the last six months to build up our staffing. At present it is projected that we will make a slight loss in the current financial year, although we’ve still got four months in which we could get further funding.

We continue to apply for money from a wide range of sources, but competition for funds is massive at the moment. We are currently waiting for decisions on a range of applications, and would also hope to develop a new funding stream though online training.

**Appointment of trustees and audit examiner:** As all current trustees are willing to stand again and no new applications have been received, all trustees resigned and stood for re-election. Current trustees are:

* Margaret Ashman who is our stalwart, Margaret has been a trustee ever since we started in 2010. She’s a social worker and also runs the contact centre in Helensburgh. She’s always been a strong supporter of us.
* Sumit Ghosh, who you can see here, has been a trustee since 2015, and is the Chair of the Trustees, has his own experience of shared parenting
* Natalie Kazimierczak is a Business Development Manager, she’s helped us a lot including in the appointment for the Digital Marketing post
* Gavin Watson, who is with us over here, has been involved with our group work, and helped us with some training and with the WhatsApp.
* Guy Holloway who is a geriatric psychiatrist, has had his own experience of separation and shared parenting.
* Amee Hood, who joined us more recently, joined us because her brother was experiencing major contact problems, luckily now he is seeing the children a lot more regularly. Amee has helped us with fundraising.
* Julie Bills came to us because of issues to do with seeing her children and various court cases and she has been attending the Edinburgh group.
* Joe Mandava, who’s our most recent trustee. He came to the Stirling group because of his own issues but also he was studying law at university and graduated, and has been interested to see changes to family law and family courts in Scotland.

**Proposed by Tony Milne and seconded by Steven Dillon – Elected unopposed.**

Sandy Scotland CA who has examined our accounts for a number of years was proposed.

**Proposed by Sumit Ghosh and seconded by Gavin Watson – Elected unopposed.**

The AGM was followed by two talks on the future of Scottish family courts.