

**Minutes of the Seveth Annual General Meeting of  
The Birthmark Support Group on  
Sunday 21st September 2008**

Meeting Venue: Chigwell School, Chigwell, Essex.

Time Commenced: 3.45 p.m. Time Finished: 4.15 p.m.

Agenda:       1. Welcome & Introduction from Chairman  
              2. Apologies for Absence  
              3. Minutes of AGM held 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007  
              4. Reports  
              5. Election of Officers/Committee  
              6. Any Other Business

**1. Welcome & Introduction from Chairman**

Members thanked for taking the time out of the Fun Day to attend the meeting.

Alex Pratt introduced as a new team member with the BSG. Alex will be working with Monika on the website.

Committee members introduced.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

None received.

**3. Minutes of AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

Reviewed and agreed as true record of the meeting. Proposed by Orla Checksfield and seconded by Toni Lingfield.

**4. Reports**

*Annual Trustee Report* – reviewed by Chairman, Nick Ward. Report details the aims of the Group together with the objectives that have been set and agreed that will help to achieve these objectives. A progress report was given against each objective.

Reported that 40,000 copies of the DVD had been distributed to target audiences. Reasonable amount of feedback received. Still have copies available so if anyone knows of any organisations requiring the same, please liaise with the BSG. Donations are gratefully received.

Our thanks to all those who volunteer their time on behalf of the Group, without whom, we would not be able to offer the type of support that we do. Support remains our main core of activity.

*TeenTalk* – still have vacancies for this segment of the BSG.

***Fun Days for 2009*** – will be at Manchester (May) and Chigwell (September)

***Ian Clover*** – the Chairman advised that Ian was resigning from the Committee and that a ‘Thank You’ card was available to sign. The Group are very grateful to Ian for all his hard work and we will miss him and his family.

Challenge for the Group is to ensure that the main committee functions remain covered. We continue to be short of help in all areas and really do need to have assistance from members.

***Great Ormond Street Hospital*** – thanks recorded again to Jane Linward and Samira Syed for their huge support to the Group. We are so fortunate to have this link with the hospital and are grateful to them for giving up their time to travel to Fun Days.

***Funding*** – even with the DVD investment, donations continue to be made to the Group. Again, we could not achieve what we do were it not for this financial support.

***Future Plans*** – detailed in Report.

***Secretary’s Report*** – Anyone with articles they would like to see in the newsletter were asked to forward to [sec@birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk](mailto:sec@birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk) or via the PO Box. Thanks to those members who have submitted items.

***Treasurer’s Report*** - income and expenditure sheets available for view. Healthy balance despite spend. Explanation given re the CMN project. Accounts have been externally audited. Karen invited questions from the floor. Accounts signed off as accurate and true record of expenditure/income by Mark Lingfield and seconded by Kath Wood.

***Membership*** – Membership stands at 775+. The BSG are indebted to Petra (Hardie) for the work that she does on maintaining the membership database and issuing group emails etc.

***Website*** – Delighted that Alex (Pratt) and Monika Lempinska (new member) have agreed to volunteer to step in and take on the website design/maintenance.

***Merchandising***- Reminded that this is now mostly available on-line or orders can be placed by post. All information is on the website.

***Helpline Activity*** – continues to grow. Still need volunteers to help the support teams, especially PWS. Training and support given via Mentor scheme.

***Face It Together*** – membership static with 120 contacts via emails.

**TeenTalk** – Actively seeking volunteers and applications invited.

**Media** – we continue to receive requests for media articles. If anyone would like to contribute, they should initially contact Louise Busfield who will maintain a folder of case histories. In some instances, a payment is made. Also a vital way of increasing the Group's profile.

**Finally, volunteers** – the Group desperately needs support from members. All have experience of what it's like to either have a birthmark or live with someone who does. Any amount of time or help would be very gratefully received.

## **5. Election of Officers/Committee**

The following members offered themselves for re-election.

Chairman	Nick Ward
Secretary	Alana Smith
Treasurer	Karen Barter
Publicity/Merch	Louise Busfield
Support	Toni Lingfield
Face It Together	Orla Checksfield

The re-election en-bloc was proposed by Jane Coultrup and seconded by Steve Hyman.

Ian Clover's resignation reluctantly accepted.

The Chairman also advised that it was his wish to step down from the Committee during 2009.

Stanford Jeffrey was welcomed to the Committee in the Fundraising role – proposed by Louise Busfield and seconded by Orla Checksfield.

Officers/Committee for 2008 confirmed as:-

Chairman	Nick Ward
Secretary	Alana Smith
Treasurer	Karen Barter
Publicity/Merch	Louise Busfield
Support	Toni Lingfield
Face It Together	Orla Checksfield
Fundraising	Stanford Jeffrey

## **6. Any Other Business**

The BSG have been successful in obtaining a Silver Band place in the London Marathon for 2009. The cost of this was £350 and we will be entitled to a place every

5 years now. An email will be sent out to all members inviting them to apply for the place.

Meeting concluded by thanking all those present for their attendance and also thanks to Samira, Jane and all at GOSH for their support of the Group.