

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY SOCIETY OF IRELAND
(Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital) (MDI)

Annual General Meeting 2021

held virtually via Zoom

Saturday 4 September 2021 at 12 30pm

AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 12th September 2020.
2. Discussion relating to any matters arising from the minutes of the 2020 AGM.
3. Chairperson's report.
4. To receive and consider the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020 together with the reports of the directors and of the auditors thereon.
5. To note the business of the Company.
6. To appoint Auditors.
7. To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
8. The following directors retire in accordance with the Constitution:
 - a) Mr Kenneth Rowan
 - b) Dr Una McCourt – Position: Secretary
9. By separate resolutions to elect as Directors the following, in accordance with the Constitution and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election:
 - a) Dr Una McCourt
 - b) Ms Roisin Glynn – Position: Vice Chairperson
10. By separate resolutions to elect as Directors the following who offer themselves for election:
 - a) Mr Patrick Cassidy – Position: Chairperson
 - b) Mr Eoghan Clifford
 - c) Mr Gareth Crowe
 - d) Dr Ashling Holland
 - e) Ms Fiona Nolan – Position: Secretary.
11. To transact any other business which may be properly transacted at an Annual General Meeting.

Present: Ms Hazel Bridcut, Mr Patrick Cassidy, Mr Eoghan Clifford, Mr Gareth Crowe, Ms Róisín Glynn, Dr Ashling Holland, Dr Una McCourt, Ms Aisling McElligott, Mr James Murray, Ms Fiona Nolan, Mr Ephraim Purcell, Dr John Roche, Ms Catherine Wakeford. This number exceeds the quorum of 11 members. Ms Grace Walsh joined and heard the Auditor's report.

Apologies: Ms Marie Farquharson, Mr Edward Glynn, Ms Dorothy Jones, Ms Donna Moran, Ms Hennie Walsh.

In attendance: Mr Ray Hunt (Auditor), Ms Elaine McDonnell (CEO), Mr Brendan Molloy (Research Officer) and Ms Sheila Murphy (Finance Officer).

Constitution: Ms Bridcut had the Constitution open on her computer, so it was available for referencing at any time during the meeting.

The chair was taken by Dr Una McCourt.

1. The minutes of the AGM held on 12 September 2020 had been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, and were approved on the proposal of Dr Una McCourt, seconded by Ms Róisín Glynn.
2. There were no matters arising.
3. Dr John Roche read his Chairperson's report on the activities during 2020 and a copy is attached to these minutes. At the appropriate point in his report, we observed a minute's silence in memory of those members who had passed away during 2020. He concluded by praising the staff for the quality of the published annual report for 2020.
4. Mr Ray Hunt (Auditor) presented the financial statements for 2020, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Pages 2 - 34 cover the Trustees' report and on page 35 their responsibilities are outlined. Pages 36 - 38 cover the Auditor's responsibilities and his report, and Mr Hunt concluded with the opinion that the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and that financial statements were in agreement with the accounting records.

On page 39 in the Statement of Financial Activities a small drop in income for the year was noted as was also a drop in the outgoings so that the net incoming resources for the year came to €219,012. The Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2020 showed net assets of €3,766,090. It was noted that a large proportion of cash in hand is made up of money in the research fund which is a restricted fund. Further, we are obliged to maintain reserves equivalent to approximately six months' funding in the event of income ceasing and the organisation having to close.

In conclusion, Mr Hunt gave MDI a clean unqualified audit report. On matters on which he was required to report by exception, there was nothing to report. The accounts had already been passed and signed off by the Board but, as requested last year at the AGM, the members were asked to add their agreement, and this was proposed by Mr Murray and seconded by Dr McCourt.

On page 43 in note 3 the Auditor stated that, despite the difficulties posed by the pandemic and in view of our strong balance sheet, the financial statements had

been prepared on a going concern basis, with no significant subsequent events identified regarding the current year (note 18).

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6. & 7.

It was proposed by Mr Murray and seconded by Ms Bridcut that the appointment of auditors for 2021 and the fixing of their remuneration be left to the Board to decide. Hunt and Comapny have been our Auditors for several years, but the actual audit has been carried out by a different staff member each year. Mr Hunt departed.

8. The retirement of Mr Rowan as Director and Dr McCourt as Secretary was agreed on the proposal of Mr Cassidy, seconded by Mr Crowe.
9. It was proposed by Ms Nolan, seconded by Ms McElligott, that Dr Roche be appointed a Director, Ms Bridcut the Treasurer, Dr McCourt a Director and Ms Glynn Vice-Chairperson.
10. It was proposed by Dr Roche, seconded by Ms Glynn, that Mr Cassidy be appointed Chairperson, Mr Clifford a Director, Mr Crowe a Director, Dr Holland a Director and Ms Nolan the Secretary.
11. Ms Donna Moran who was unable to attend had submitted a question regarding what progress had been made with plans for respite camps to be held. In reply the CEO said following a survey of members that the service in the future would be a mix of camps, respite breaks and peer led holidays. Suitable venues have been identified but due to the COVID-19 outbreak it was not permissible to travel to them to carry out risk assessments. Also, the recruitment of suitable PAs has been hindered by the pandemic, but it is planned to have the new service in place as soon as possible.

Mr Murray asked that the practice of sending to the parents of newly diagnosed persons, a very full information pack along with a membership application form and request for payment of membership fee be reconsidered. The CEO stated that a new model is already in place and requested to be informed privately of the particular case in mind. It was the opinion of the meeting that each case was different and so should be treated accordingly, but that generally it would be better for the local FSW to contact the family by phone and arrange a visit at which the information pack could be delivered.

The board already had the matter of the membership fee and its payment under review and planned to have it resolved shortly.

It was remarked that on the whole members have kept well through the COVID-19 crisis and appreciation for the vaccine was expressed.

Mr Cassidy then took the Chair and closed the meeting by thanking retiring Board members for their service, particularly Dr Roche for the tremendous work he had done as Chairperson. He thanked the management team for the work they had done making all the arrangements for the meeting. He expressed the hope that going forward the organisation would develop well as the pandemic subsided.

ENDS