

All Party Parliamentary Group on Deafness

Annual General Meeting | 16 January 2017 | Minutes

Room U, Portcullis House, Westminster

Present

- Jim Fitzpatrick MP (chair)
- Baroness Howe
- Eilidh Whiteford MP
- Baroness Randerson
- Lord Shipley
- Neil Carmichael MP

Apologies

- Lilian Greenwood MP
- Debbie Abrahams MP
- Kate Green MP
- Ruth Smeeth MP
- Teresa Pearce MP
- Tommy Sheppard MP

In attendance

- Jim Edwards, UKCoD
- Rob Geaney, Action on Hearing Loss (Minutes)

1. **AGM (election of officers)**

Jim Fitzpatrick informed the meeting that all the existing officers of the Group had agreed to remain in position. They are:

Chair: Jim Fitzpatrick MP

Vice-Chair: Neil Shipley MP

Vice-Chair: Ian Mearns MP

Vice-Chair Lord Shipley

Neil Carmichael proposed that all officers of the Group be re-elected and Eilidh Whiteford seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously.

Lord Shipley asked the group to note a recent amendment to the Government's [National Citizens Service Bill](#) which requires the National Citizens Service Trust to report annual on the number of participants in the scheme who have a disability, as defined by the Equality Act. Lord Shipley said that [the amendment](#), which was passed without a division at third reading, was an example of the small policy gains which could be achieved.

2. Draft Terms of Reference for inquiry into the cost implications of minority language status for BSL (for agreement)

The group gave its in-principle agreement to the Terms of Reference for an inquiry into the cost implications of minority language status for BSL. However, in doing so the parliamentarians made it clear that it was for the stakeholders to the group to raise the financial support required to make the project viable. The members present also expressed concern that the APPG might not have enough active members who want to dedicate time to such a substantive project; again the sector stakeholders will need to take the lead on securing this support.

3. Any other business

No further matters were raised.