



**Devon Association of Governors
DAG Conference 2008 "Tomorrows' Schools"
Exeter – 29 March 2008**

DRAFT NOTES

Record of the meeting held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, Exeter on Saturday 29th March 2008

The Chairman, **Don Paterson**, welcomed all those present, the guest speakers (Phil Revell and Anne Whiteley), Cllr John Smith and representatives from DAPH, DASH, NAG, Plymouth Governors, Torbay Governors and NGA representatives. The Chairman reported it had been an active year for the Executive Committee (activities reported on inside cover of delegate pack). The Chairman thanked all members of the Executive who for everything they do, but special thanks were asked to be recorded for David Tall for all the time and effort his puts into his role as Executive Officer.

The Chairman was pleased to acknowledge that Devon is run in a very open way and DAG has the opportunity to comment and participate at all levels.

The Chairman thanked NPS for all the help they had given producing the delegates pack for today's conference, and for their help throughout the preparation for the Conference. He then reminded delegates that the focus of the 2008 Conference was 'Tomorrow's Schools' and talked about how governors can influence and bring out the potential in all young people.

The Chairman invited **Michael Parle** to introduce and launch, formally, **the DAG website**. (www.dag.gb.com). **David Tall** advised that in an effort to reduce the e-mail workload on schools and Clerks, the website would be the primary method of communications. He urged Governors to look at the website at least fortnightly.

The Chairman introduced **Phil Revell** the Chief Executive of the National Governors' Association who spoke on 'School Governance in the next 5 Years'. He was followed by **Anne Whiteley**, Director CYPS, who spoke on 'Being a Governor in a Devon School over the Next Five Years'.

A copy of both addresses is on the DAG website.

The addresses were followed by a Q and A period. The questions and answers are also on the DAG website.

The AGM followed.

AGM of the Devon Association of Governors

- The Minutes of the 2007 Assembly were unanimously agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by **Faith Butler** and seconded by **Rupert Butler**.
- The Constitution has been updated to reflect titular and other minor changes. The amended Constitution was presented to the Conference. Adoption was proposed by **Jo Frith**, seconded by **Mitzi Belsher** and carried unanimously
- All members of the present committee were willing to stand again. One delegate said that they would like to have seen the geographical representative spread, regarding committee members. **Ray Davison** proposed that the current Committee be re-elected and Mitzi Belsher seconded this. Agreed. Delegates were reminded that DAG needed capable and visionary people on the Executive Committee to replace members who will inevitably move on. An example of the visionary nature of DAG was that ten years ago DAG established DAISI, which has been a very successful venture and still going strong.
- **Ian Rogers** presented the Annual Accounts to December 31 2007. He noted that the Grant Income has been received for the forthcoming year in advance; this is reflected in the budget. The balance is currently healthy but a five year budget has been worked out which presently indicates that, at current rate of spend and income DAG will have a shortfall in 2013. DAG will initially be talking to DGS over subscriptions and to NGA over better quality membership via single subscriptions through DGS. Thanks were recorded to Michael Steed for verifying the accounts for DAG. **Carol Woodhouse** proposed the accounts be accepted and **Kathryn Wilson** seconded this proposal. The financial report/accounts were adopted.

The AGM was followed by entertainment provided by the Devon Youth Choral Experience. The boys and girls also entertained the Conference at lunchtime. All present were very grateful to two quite outstanding performances.

The Conference then moved into 3 workshops before reconvening for the Chairman to sum up the day.

No date has been arranged for next year, until views have been sought from other Governors as to what they want from their day.

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