**Merton Centre for Independent Living Annual General Meeting 2015 - Minutes**

Apologies: John Kelly, Richard Downes, Carole Mathurin, David Chung, Diane Benjamin, Joyce Kwapong

Notes: No British Sign Language interpretation required

1. **Welcome all to the Annual General Meeting**
2. **Minutes of last AGM**

Proposed and accepted

1. **Membership report**

We have 180 members in total and 24 are present at the meeting today

1. **Chairs report**

We had an amazing year, grew substantially and doubled the number of people we can support.

Over the year you asked us to make agencies more accountable and we’ve worked with Circle Housing on this

You asked us to increase access to Merton CIL services and we doubled the number of staff we have

You asked us to increase the voice of disabled people. We have had some success with getting the Council to consult with disabled people at an earlier stage

You asked us to look at disability hate crime and we will start a pilot project on this

Some areas we still want to address

* Employment
* Education
* Access
* Challenging attitudes to disability

In the year ahead we have gathered funding to put more resources towards:

* advice and advocacy
* supported volunteering
* policy and strategy work

As we now have a stable level of funding until March 2018 we hope that by the end of the period we will have enough evidence to demonstrate that we make a positive contribution to the Borough of Merton.

The Chair would like to pay tribute to:

* our dedicated volunteers
* committed and loyal staff that go the extra mile
* fellow trustees for the support they have given
* Our CEO
1. **Treasurers report**

It has been a very positive year for growth with an increase in income of 30% in comparison to the previous year

We thank our funders for their generous support

We are looking forward to a positive year ahead

Proposal: To adopt the accounts for year ending March 31st 2015

Proposal Approved.

1. **Election of Trustees**

The following trustees have indicated their willingness to be re-elected, again, as our constitution requires one third of directors to stand down each year:

Nick Pizey, Carole Mathurin, Sarah Henley and Gina Vettesse

Proposal to re-elect approved

The following trustees have decided to stand down and not be put forward for re election. We thank them for their contribution to Merton Centre for Independent Living:

Martia Bevan

Proposal approved

We have a vacancy on the trustee body and are looking for trustees with experience or background in finance, legal or BME

1. **AOB**

Thank you to those who brought food

Announcement that My Voice Matters event will be taking place on 3rd December

Please could everyone complete the survey that is going round

1. **Close of formal business**