



## IDS 39<sup>th</sup> AGM Meeting Minutes

Venue: Zoom/Facebook Live Stream  
10 June 2021, 14:00 – 16:00.

<b>Board members present</b>	Lianne Quigley (LQ)(Chairperson), John Bosco Conama (JBC)(Vice Chairperson), Mary Stringer (MS)(Director), Aidan McCardle (AM) (Director), Sofiya Kalinova (SK) (Director), Lydia Mendes (LM) (Director), Carol Browne (CB) (Director)
<b>Members present</b>	30 members attended online
<b>In Attendance</b>	John Sherwin (CEO), Brian Crean (FET Course Manager), Tracey Treanor (FET Quality Assurance Manager, Elaine Grehan (Advocacy Manager), Fiona Noone (Financial Controller)  Siofra Nolan (Note-taker), Tracy Daly (Interpreter), Amanda Mohan (Interpreter),
<b>Quorum</b>	Yes

<b>Minutes</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Opening of Meeting and Standing Orders</b>
	Standing Orders delivered.
<b>2</b>	<b>Adoption of the agenda</b>
	Approved by majority.
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting 11th November 2020</b>
	No amendments requested by members.  Proposal to adopt the 2020 AGM meeting minutes. Proposed by Lorraine Creed, seconded by Kevin Lynch. Accepted by majority.
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters arising from AGM 2020 minutes</b>
	Donal Desmond raises a query on the National Council, communications and the hiring of new staff. LQ responds that the query related to actions taken in 2021 but that the minutes in question refer to 2020. Donal Desmond accepted this response.
<b>5</b>	<b>Chairperson's Address</b>
	Chair LQ gives address to the meeting as follows:  Dear Members,

2020 was a roller-coaster year for all of us and now we are into the second year of Covid 19, a global pandemic.

In March 2020, the world had changed for everyone and IDS has worked very hard to continue services remotely and to provide ISL information for the Deaf community. We campaigned hard to ensure ISL interpreters were included on television briefings for emergency announcements and to make sure our community had access to information about COVID-19. I would like to thank all staff and volunteers for their hard work during the pandemic.

Despite Covid-19 IDS carried on with our work for the Deaf community and it was a very busy year.

On February 24th 2020, history was made in Leinster House at the offices of the Seanad Returning Officer. Dr. John Bosco Conama, was nominated to the Seanad by both the Irish Deaf Society and Chime. Although he was not elected to the Seanad he polled well as a first-time candidate. We hope he provided a positive example for other Deaf people interested in politics and representation.

Over the summer 2020, the IDS board and CEO worked very hard to develop a new IDS constitution. Our older 2004 constitution needed to be updated to remove inconsistencies and to meet the requirements the 2014 Companies Act. I am delighted that the new IDS constitution has now been approved by the members of IDS at EGM in March 2021. I would like to thank all Board, CEO and the ISL translation team for hard work on this new constitution. This was the most complicated legal document that has ever been translated into ISL and can be seen on the IDS website.

The launch of Deaf interpreter programme for 24 Deaf students for a year was a historic moment for the Deaf community in September 2020. Later this year, Autumn 2021, the students will graduate as Deaf Interpreters. The program was jointly funded by SLIS and CIB, in conjunction with the Centre for Deaf Studies.

During 2020 the IDS board co-opted Carol Brown and Lydia Mendes as a Director and appointed David Muldowney as a non-director Company Secretary. At our AGM in November 2020 our members elected Carol Brown, Sofiya Kalinova and Aidan McArdle and Lydia Mendes as board directors.

In late November 2020 we hosted our first ever online AGM using the Zoom video conferencing platform. This was a complex IT event with a range of voting and non-voting members, hearing and Deaf, interpreters, Q&A from our audience, voting in Zoom and a live stream on Facebook for observers. The event was successful and a learning experience for us all.

In 2020 IDS were founding members of a new coalition of disabled persons organisations called the "DPO coalition." Our goal was to write a Shadow Report for the UNCRPD and this work has been going really well between 2020 and 2021.

For the first time again via online EUD GA and I attended representing IDS. The event was a success.

On 15th December 2020, the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Anne Rabbitte TD, addressed the Seanad and announced the full commencement of the Irish Sign Language Act

2017. One of the first changes as part of implementing the Act was the establishment of a new register of Irish Sign Language Interpreters by SLIS.

Thank you to all of our board, staff, volunteers, IDS members of the Deaf community for your hard work in keeping IDS strong and steady for 40 years! We hope that IDS will continue to work for the community for another 40 years!

Thank you

Lianne Quigley

Irish Deaf Society Chairperson

## **6 2020 Review of the Affairs of the Company**

As review of IDS affairs for the previous financial year was delivered by Vice Chairperson Dr John Bosco Conoma as follows:

"I am reporting on Company Affairs. John formally sends his apologies. 2020 began quite positively. In 2019, there was a fire in DVI. IDS went online to protect staff from COVID-19. Fortunately, the fire meant there were contingency plans in place. There were further education programmes and advocacy that went online smoothly. On the IDS website, there is one page dedicated to the Guidelines, updated regularly to reflect HSE guidelines. We know that particularly the Deaf community face barriers regarding online communication and we are working to remove them.

We have gone into the black and we are in a good position to do future planning. Charity shop income is much lower due to the coronavirus. The raffle income is also gone as we could not run it. There was a drop of 30%. At the same time, there were individual donations that amounted to €10,000. Over the year we have sold all the stock we were storing in a warehouse and that has relieved us of that storage cost.

The Advocacy Department have changed their operations significantly. They previously met face-to-face. Now they have worked hard with online meet-ups to keep up their service. There was the COVID-19 Coronavirus Group to develop vocabulary to talk about COVID-19. They consulted with many organisations. There was also the coordination with regard to COVID to make sure vulnerable groups had access to food.

The Further Education and Training Department and the ISL Academy have continued to operate remotely. Throughout COVID, we had no choice but to deliver classes online. A lot of individuals were technically ready for the pandemic but not everyone is tech-savvy. As we have received more funding from SOLAS and IDS is flexible, we were able to implement the necessary changes to the working mode. There are many different courses available online. Equally we have more time to meet with students and answer queries. We have had students achieve QQI qualifications. We have had 223 assessments for Level 3. We have been monitoring the teaching standards continuously. VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) allows a different type of reflection. We may use a blend of VLE and traditional in the future. We need to make plans now to meet that demand.

We are meeting with the National Council for Special Education. We are meeting with DCU to develop biology vocabulary, matched to subject content, relating to a STEM Project. They have gone through Maths and Environmental and History already. We are involved in these projects to benefit the Deaf Community. There is a fantastic glossary.

**7 Statutory Financial Statements / Report of the Directors / Auditors' Report**

Cathal Cusack of Cusack Garvey delivered his auditor's report overview to the meeting as follows:

"My name is Cathal Cusack and I am the Auditor. My purpose is to provide an independent view, governed by Company Law. My report runs from page 6 to page 9. It says whether I think the Council has acted fairly and in accordance with Company Law. We would say it is a clean report. The organisation is in a good position. There is improvement in the way it has presented its accounts. There is nothing I need to point out making this a short report"

Questions to the auditor from the members arising from these reports:

DD: I would like to thank IDS. It's fantastic to see we are €39,000 up. On page 36, there was significant deferred income in 2020. Please explain the deferred income of €117,000.

FN: We were not able to use all funding in 2020 because of COVID. We have deferred €90,000 (SOLAS funding) and €27,000 additional funding (specifically related to COVID) to 2021.

PP: Page 40, translation costs. There was quite a big jump. Is that money only for the FET Department and not the rest of the company?

FN: The translation costs fall under the FET Department. We saw an increase in the need for translation services in 2020 again because of COVID. If income goes up, the expenditure is going to go up. It was due to all the translation the IDS supplied to the HSE and other organisations.

PP: Thank you. Also, the money for lighting and heating from 2019 to 2020 is interesting. It went up but everyone was home during the pandemic.

FN: There was a slight drop. You would think it should be lower but we still had to pay for lighting and heating and service costs. Even though income was down, we still had to pay our running costs and I pointed that out in my report. The running costs stayed much the same.

PP: I see that FET department has had additional training. You have contractors that come in 2020. The gross income is low considering that. A lot of people seem to have been brought in as contractors to do teaching.

FN: The way the teachers and tutors were dealt with in 2019 was under Payroll. In 2020, the tutors and teachers moved to a contract basis which meant Wages and Salaries figure was down and the Contractors and Traders figure was up.

PP: So, the teachers and tutors have been switched over to being contractors?

FN: From the start of 2020, all teachers and tutors were on a contract basis. In the past, prior to 2020, the majority of tutors were included in Payroll.

Proposal to adopt the 2020 financial reports:

Proposed by Philip Power, seconded by Donal Desmond.

Accepted by majority

<b>8</b>	<b>Election of Directors</b>
	No new directors to be appointed in this meeting.
<b>9</b>	<b>Approval of the appointment of the Statutory Auditor</b>
	Motion to re-appoint Cusack Garvey as IDS auditor Proposed by Philip Power, seconded by Carmel Grehan Accepted by majority.
<b>10</b>	<b>Approval of the remuneration of the Statutory Auditor</b>
	Motion to approve the remuneration of the auditor Proposed by Carmel Grehan, seconded by Donal Desmond. Accepted by majority.
<b>11</b>	<b>Motions / Resolutions</b>
	No proposals for additional motions received prior to this AGM.  From the Chair: we, the IDS, require a candidate to fill the role of treasurer and seek expressions of interest.
<b>12</b>	<b>AOB</b>
	From the floor of the meeting:  Kevin Lynch requests that IDS inform RTE News that their subtitling is stalling. LQ to request Brian Crean to investigate. KL also asks that IDS campaign Netflix to slow subtitling on their programming.  Donal Desmond raises an issue with the IDS comments page and those responses be given in ISL, and that he would prefer that the Annual report be sent by traditional mail and not just electronically.  Raffle results: Winner: Philip Power. Second: Annie Murphy Third: Bernadette O' Connor Fourth: Geraldine Broderick
<b>13</b>	<b>Meeting concludes</b>

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 25th April 2022

**Chairperson**