



Minutes of a Meeting of the Karten Network Board of Directors

12 November 2020, via Microsoft Teams

Directors present:

- Arwyn Jones (Chair)
- Rohan Slaughter
- Max Bianconi
- David Finch
- Joe Cash
- Paul Doyle
- Vicky Myko

In attendance:

- Dawn Green
- Martin Pistorius
- Liz Howarth
- Sal Cooke
- Ines Meza-Mitcher (minutes)

Apologies:

- Robert Boyce

1. Apologies

- Apologies were received from Robert Boyce.

2. Declaration of Business Interests

- It was noted that DF joined board of another charity (Art Shape). No direct COI other than it is a charity foundation working with disabilities and technology.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

- Actions from the last board meeting were discussed:
 - Distribution of the Policy Connect notes is complete, as are the evidence sessions. A report should be published by the end of this calendar year and this will be distributed to Directors and Trustees.
 - Nuvoic project - RS was thanked for sharing materials with Liz Howarth.

- It was noted that lots of web development is currently underway, with Martin developing Nuvoic website and the Trust website.
- The minutes were approved as a true record of the last meeting by those present.

4. Matters arising

- It was noted that all matters arising would be discussed as part of the agenda.

Items for discussion/decision

5. 2021 -2026 Vision and Strategy

- Directors were reminded that the current strategy takes us up to 2020 – in particular, they were asked to remind themselves of what the past vision/goals were. Are they still relevant? What's changed? What do we need to do that's different, particularly in context of covid?
- Directors discussed the strategy as above. Suggestions included:
 - Ensuring that the objective mentioning the Trust showed its charitable objectives. The importance of the Trust measuring the impact of its charitable objectives was discussed, particularly in terms of impact on maximising ability and outcomes to the service users.
 - Clarify whether "expertise across the Network" referred to the Karten Network or other networks. It was confirmed that in this context the Karten Network was being referred to.
 - AJ noted that the Trust was about enabling centres with equipment, with the Network then being instrumental in reviewing those applications and putting forward commentary and recommendations. Additionally, supporting the staff in order to support the service users, students and recipients of the support.

- TechAbility presentation (3 December) will be critical for trustees, with outcome and impact presented in a formal way.
- The importance of resilience, flexibility and agility was discussed.
- Use financial support in a way that enables all of the work to continue – close eye on management and allocation of financial resources.
- We as a Network and Karten Trust cannot solve the problem of digital inequality alone but can influence direction of government policy. It was agreed that a line would be added about the strategic influencing role of the Network – most productive way of addressing the digital divide.
- It was agreed that a joint Trust and Network board meeting should be arranged on the back of the Policy Connect paper coming out. **ACTION: It was agreed that AJ would speak to Anthony Davis about this.**
- **ACTION: DG to update document based on comments received.**
- DG flagged up that Clive Gilbert gave an inspirational keynote presentation at the TechAbility conference and referenced within that that in 2021 there will be a commission around the use of Smart Home devices for people with additional needs; with the work we're doing with Nuvoic contact has been made with the team to see if we could get involved with that. Really exciting opportunities to do things moving into 2021.

6. Nuvoic Project update

- Liz Howarth (LH) joined for this part of the meeting to give an update on the Nuvoic project to accompany her report.
- LH highlighted positive developments. Firstly, there is a revised budget and project plan in place which has included funding for a full time technologist

role, hopefully starting January 2021 and going to January 2023. The board approved advertising to start that week which a closing date of 30 November and interviews on 4 December. LH noted that she would send the JD round.

- Have been having problems with recruitment regarding the ability to accept Voiceltt's terms of use and privacy policy. Organisations have candidates wanting to take part but don't have the capacity to consent to the detailed information required. Would like to amend our requirements to allow a family member to accept terms on their behalf. Have asked for feedback on this approach from TechAbility and Fitzroy. Board agreed to amend and proceed on that basis.
- DG thanked LH for her determination, tenacity and professionalism.
- The board were reminded that legal advice had been sought regarding the initial advance payment agreement, which has since been updated. The board agreed that there would not be a need to incur further expense in procuring additional legal advice to look at the updated version as this was broadly very similar.

7. GDPR policy approval

- It was noted that the major reason updated documents had been provided at this point was to reflect Nuvoic activity with a specific data processing agreement. Needed to reflect whole range of activities on Karten Network involvement.
- The policy was approved.

Items for information

8. 2020 Strategic and Operational Plan update

- It was noted that there was no need for a lengthy discussion on this as it had been covered earlier in the agenda. DG reiterated that moving forward capturing the impact of actions will be key. It was also noted that it was felt we were doing all we could to support Centres at this time.

9. Karten Network Development Co-ordinator update

- The update was taken as read.

10. Mobile Technology Adviser update

- MP was thanked for his report. Directors held a brief discussion about website accessibility (e.g. mobile friendly, different languages). Supporting Israeli colleagues was discussed, where language might be a barrier.
- It was noted that in December we'll have a logo, a twitter account and a website to tell and celebrate Ian's story and the amazing legacy he leaves behind.

11. Israel Karten Centres update

- Debbie Ben-Tal's update was taken as read, DG to pass back thanks on behalf of the board.
- DG referenced the TechAbility conference with Israeli centres – board were reminded that Debbie had requested funded places for one person from each Israeli centre to come and it was felt that this was not affordable. Interest in TA conferences being online appeared to show that colleagues could participate but actually only Debbie did – DG discussed this with her and discussed language barriers, accessibility, inclusion. DF noted that there seems to be a big difference in reports coming back from UK centres compared with Israel.
- It was noted that DBT is very stretched with demands of her other roles – DG has tried to get her to attend meetings but timing is an issue for Debbie as she is often working elsewhere. Generally speaking, Israeli Karten centres are great newsletter contributors – there is no lack of engagement.



12. Any other relevant business

Finance Protocol

- Directors noted the financial protocol document, the purpose of which is to summarise and clarify who is responsible and accountable for approving what and levels of expenditure. Currently AJ and DG are both signatories on the Network board account, with RS shortly to be added. The document was approved.

Date and time of next meeting

10.30 on 18 February 2021 – Microsoft Teams