



## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Karten Network Board**

**10.30 on Thursday 16th February 2023**

**Remote Meeting – Microsoft Teams**

### **Directors present:**

- Arwyn Jones (Chair) (AJ)
- Rohan Slaughter (Vice Chair) (RS)
- Paul Doyle (PD)
- David Finch (DF)
- Max Bianconi (MB)

### **Others present:**

- Dawn Green (DG)
- Liz Howarth (LH)
- Martin Pistorius (MP)
- Sal Cooke (SC)

### **Apologies:**

- David Webster
- Robert Boyce

### **Minutes:**

- Inés Meza-Mitcher (via recording)

#### **1. Apologies**

- Apologies were noted as above.

#### **2. Declarations of Business Interests**

- There were no declarations of business interests.

#### **3. Minutes of the last meeting**

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record by those present.

#### **4. Matters arising**

- Matters arising and actions either formed part of the agenda or had already been dealt with.

## **5. KN Ltd Annual Accounts**

- The accounts were approved by Directors and no queries were raised. It was noted that AJ would sign the accounts retrospectively. **Post meeting note: this has been done.**

## **6. Conversion to charitable entity progress and next steps**

- It was noted that DG had sent round a note in December stating that the charity commission (CC) had requested wet signatures on forms, and had also expressed concerns that the articles seemed “commercial”. BDB Pitmans responded on the Network’s behalf to dispute this. A new application has been submitted, and a different case officer is now dealing with this. It is therefore likely that there will be a delay. Directors agreed that if Dawn were to send round any further queries, they would respond ASAP.
- RS flagged to trustees that his home address had been incorrectly listed on the charity commission website and as a result he had received marketing communications. DG confirmed that this had been corrected and that no further home addresses were listed.
- Directors discussed future approaches to how grants are awarded. It was noted that a small sub group had met and the notes from this sub group had been included with the meeting papers. Directors were asked for any comments or questions. SC was asked whether there would be any appetite to discuss this amongst Karten trustees. SC felt that currently trustees were heavily focused on investments and available money, but that she agreed they should discuss this at some point. **Action: it was agreed that this would be raised with trustees at the next meeting, and that it should be allocated enough time – it may be that a separate meeting is required for this.**
- It was noted that AJ would be tweaking both the memorandum of understanding and the grant agreement between the Network and the Karten Trust, in light of feedback received from Anthony Davis and Edward Copisarow.

## **7. Nuvoic project update**

- LH joined the meeting to give a project update and shared some slides with Directors.
- Over the three years, there have been a total of 99 participants from 33 different partner organisations. The current focus is around sourcing people to donate voice samples in light of the work being done towards continuous recognition. Over 27,000 recordings have been made.
- 10 published videos have been put together, for use in presentations and on the website, as well as three detailed case studies. The team has delivered various presentations, including at the University of Dundee, Digifest, and the International Conference on Disability and Diversity.
- 14 newsletter articles have been published, and with help from MP the project website has been set up. There is also a private Facebook group for participants.
- All reports have been submitted and approved, including the ethics procedures and mid-project impact report.
- Directors were shown a clip from one of the participants to demonstrate the positive impact.
- There were no additional questions or comments. LH was thanked by Directors for all her work.

## **8. KN Ltd 2022-23 and Nuvoic expenditure**

- DG's paper was largely taken as read.
- The summary of the expenditure was for the first three months of the financial year, and it was noted there were no current problems or concerns.
- The two interim additional payments had been secured from Voiceitt, to take us comfortably to the end of the project.
- There were no additional questions or comments.

## **9. Karten Network Development Co-Ordinator update**

- DG gave an update to accompany her paper. The report was largely taken as read. She particularly highlighted the TechAbility conference, which had been excellent.
- It was noted that applications from 7 Karten centres would be presented for consideration at the trustee meeting on 10 March.
- It was further noted that the Repair Application had been submitted (to the European Commission), and the outcome, if successful, should be clear in April.

## **10. Technology Adviser update**

- MP's paper was largely taken as read. DF asked about the feedback questionnaires (on Microsoft 365) and the progress made on that. It was noted that MP hoped to get further responses after the newsletter had been published.

## **11. Israel Karten Centres update**

- The update from Debbie Ben-Tal was largely taken as read. DG noted that two Israeli centres want to submit an application, and she will let them know what the situation is after the trustee meeting in March, given that in recent years no funding has been allocated at the September meeting.
- DF raised that there were a lot of emails being received. **Action: DG agreed to go back to Debbie to get some more information about this.**

## **12. Any other relevant business**

### **Policy Connect APPGAT membership 2023/24**

- It was noted that our existing membership expired at the end of January, and the cost associated with renewing this is £5,000 plus VAT. Directors were asked their views on whether they felt renewing membership was worthwhile and, if so, how the Network could fund this.
- RS felt that, in light of the current political situation, there was opportunity with the current government. Additionally, with a possible incoming Labour government, there could be an ideal opportunity there too. On this basis, RS felt that this was not an ideal time to disengage from the group.
- Directors discussed the possibility of the rate being negotiable, particularly in light of the fact the Trust had provided funding to Policy Connect. **Action: it was agreed that DG would have this conversation with Policy Connect.**
- It was noted that the next meeting on 5 July would be held in person.
- There were no further items for AOB.