



Minutes of a meeting of the Karten Network board of trustees

3 July 2025, 10am, via Teams

Attendees

Directors/Trustees present

- Joanne Rees-Proud (Chair)
- Rohan Slaughter (Vice-Chair)
- Samantha Haddock
- Julie Mault
- Paul Doyle
- Miriam Hendry
- Kayleigh Hunt
- Alison Keeley

Apologies:

- David Webster

Also present:

- Dawn Green
- Martin Pistorius
- Sal Cooke

Minutes

- Inés Meza-Mitcher (via recording)

1. Welcome and introductions

Attendees were duly welcomed to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Declaration of business interests

- No new declarations of interest were made.

4. Minutes of the last meeting (20 February 2025)

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- **Action:** JM's surname to be updated to Mault on the Charity Commission and Companies House website.

5. Matters arising

- It was noted that the agreement with Ian Karten Charitable Trust has been signed and the scheduled payments have been received. This addresses a long-standing request from auditors and marks a new way of working.
- Fundraising Subgroup: DG, AK, and JRP met. A fundraiser role advert was created and circulated, but response has been limited. AK noted success with LinkedIn for recruitment and offered to share the advert there. Also recommended the "Fundraising Chat" Facebook group job thread.
- **Action:** Trustees were encouraged to share the advert via their own networks. DG agreed to contact Alex Davis Moran at IKCT to explore additional networks. AK confirmed one expression of interest in the fundraiser role has since been received. It was agreed DG would refresh and re-circulate fundraiser advert and that AK would share advert on LinkedIn and fundraising forums.
- New IKCT Trustee: SC reported a new IKCT trustee, Emily Davis, has been appointed. Trustees agreed it would be helpful to introduce her to Karten's work and arrange a centre visit. **Action: DG to arrange.**

6. KN finances – 2024-25 interim budget position

- DG presented the interim budget. It was noted that the expenditure to date has been limited to core administration costs. No grant funding has yet been distributed to centres; a number of applications from the previous transitional period were deferred.
- Trustees acknowledged delays were due to the time required to finalise the IKCT agreement and transfer funds.
- DG will report progress and a clear timeline for grant allocations to the IKCT Board in September.

- **Action:** DG to prepare and circulate a timeline for progressing and deciding deferred grant applications ahead of the September IKCT meeting.

7. KN admin budget proposal 2025-26

- DG presented a draft budget based on 2024/25 figures.
- The current year's underspend was noted; this was largely due to reduced activity in grant applications and fewer centre visits. It was agreed that this could be redirected to support centre funding. The 2025/26 budget includes provision for a freelance fundraiser.
- Trustees acknowledged the challenge of reduced income from IKCT and the importance of securing alternative funding streams.
- The budget was formally approved by trustees.

8. Developing the Karten Network's strategy and delivery plan

- DG presented an overview of existing strategic themes and goals, noting these were last updated 6–7 years ago and need refreshing. The following points were discussed:
 - Fundraising priorities: agreement to aim for c.£400k annually for grant distribution to centres.
 - Evidence base: use case studies and impact reports from centres to demonstrate need.
 - Alternative funding routes: trusts, grants, Big Give, approaching existing funders.
 - Grant decision-making: objective, transparent process with a panel of trustees.
 - Applications backlog: deferred applications to be progressed; panel meeting to be agreed for early–mid September.
 - Strategic plan refresh: 2024–27 plan to be reviewed in light of new IKCT relationship and fundraising strategy.
 - Communications: develop an “elevator pitch” for trustees and update risk register in line with revised strategic priorities.
 - **Action:** panel to be agreed and meeting convened for September.

9. Karten Network development coordinator update

- This update was taken as read.

10. Technology adviser update

- This update was taken as read; MP was thanked for his ongoing work.

11. Israel Karten Centre update

- This update was taken as read. DG noted Debbie Ben-Tal's contribution and the ongoing work of the Israeli Karten centres, particularly in light of the current difficult situation.

12. Any other relevant business

- There was no AOB noted.