

# THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF HELSTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Minutes of 66th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE HOSPITAL

ON MONDAY 11 December 2023

Present: The Mayor of Helston, Councillor Miles Kenchington, Dr Ian Wort, Mr Baden Christophers, Mrs Penny Whittle, Hospital Sister Trudy Addington, Councillor Ronnie Williams and Councillor Paul Webb, Dr. Ken Whittle (President), Mrs Ann Ferris (chairman), Mrs Sue Atkins (Hon Treasurer), Wendy Wallis (Secretary), Jenny Mann (Assistant Secretary) Sandy Bartlett, Moira Dixon, Heather Gilbert, William and Anne Russell, Maggie Wherry, Linda Pascoe, Liz James, Paul Phillips, Nigel Walker Governor from the NHS Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust  
<https://www.cornwallft.nhs.uk/governors-and-members>

1. **Dr Ken Whittle.**

Dr Ken Whittle, welcomed everyone to our 66<sup>th</sup> AGM including our Guests, the Mayor of Helston and friends.

This is the 101 year of the dedication of our Hospital and can I take this opportunity of thanking Matron Lynda McHale, who unfortunately cannot be with us today and Hospital Sister Trudy for all their work they are their staff do for the Hospital and their patients.

2. **Apologies** Derek Thomas, M.P., Andrew George , Cllr Mike Thomas, Chris Roberts, Matron Lynda McHale, Sally Robinson, Ray Harris (Helston/Lizard Rotary Club), Jo Coward, Gary Tremayne, Suzanne Sampson, Penny Truscott,

3. **Minutes** – As the Minutes of the 2022 Minutes had been circulated to all members before and copies were available at the meeting these were taken as read.

**Proposed Moira Dixon, Seconded Ian Wort AGREED**

4. **Chairman's Report – Ann Ferris**

This is my report for the year 2023  
the past year has been a much more normal one for the League of Friends in that we have felt confident in holding some fundraising events again.

In May the hospital celebrated its centenary, and we were delighted to be able to help by serving cream teas to the invited dignitaries and guests. The staff had worked hard to make the event such a memorable occasion and we hope that the Community Hospital will go on providing a vital service to Helston and the surrounding area for many years to come.

After an absence of three years we were able to hold our fete once again. It was wonderful to be able to welcome the public to the hospital and our thanks go to Rev. Danny Reed for performing the opening. There seemed to be far more people attending this year than in previous ones, the various stalls were busy and as always the homemade teas were very popular. It was a wonderful afternoon with a great community feel to it.

Later in July I hosted a coffee morning in our garden which was enjoyed by a large number of people. The sun shone until a sudden shower at a quarter to twelve made everyone decide that it was time to head for home.

All these events are only possible with the commitment of the committee members who unfailingly produce cakes and raffle prizes whenever asked and give up their time to attend events and I thank them all for this.

We have been delighted to receive generous donations from both the True and Faithful and Penhellaz Lodges in the last year and we thank them for their ongoing support.

In the last year the hospital has appointed Activity Co-ordinators who work with patients and we have been able to provide them with numerous games, puzzles and other items to assist in their work.

The League has continued to be represented at various civic events in the town including the Mayor Choosing and the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade.

Thanks go to Anne Russell and her band of helpers for providing the floral displays in the hospital entrance and as always they are looking wonderful. Maggie and Jo have once again sold our charity Christmas cards in record time.

My personal thanks go to Wendy and Sue for the huge amount of work that they put in behind the scenes to keep the work of the League running smoothly, to the whole committee for their help and encouragement and to Ken, our President, who supports our work untiringly.

Finally we must thank the wonderful staff of the hospital – without whom we would not be here today.

Thank you all for attending this afternoon and showing your support for the work of the League of Friends and the hospital itself.

Wishing you all happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024. This is my report for the year and I recommend its adoption.

Proposed Heather Gilbert seconded Maggie Wherry. AGREED

Ken thanked Ann for all her hard work and leadership as Chairman over the last year.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Sue Atkins

I present the Treasurer's report for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Income totalled £9073 comprising of Fundraising activities: Annual Fete £1222, Ann Ferris's Coffee morning £455, surplus on sale of Christmas cards £126, Donations in lieu of flowers £2586., Mullion Cricket Club in memory of the late David Tremayne £2216, Tesco second hand book sales and donations £500, True and Faithful Lodge 318 £500, sale of Derek Carter books £82. Other donations £1018, Aquarium Connection tin £83. Interest on reserves £125, subscriptions £160 with those for the current year now falling due.

Expenditure for the direct benefit of the Hospital totalled £14932 made up as follows:- Bladder scanner £6592, 4 Quatro mattresses £5200, projector with screen and games for the occupational therapy £533, Maintenance of the Aquarium in outpatients waiting room £546, Removal and replacement of TVs £509, New TV for the Jack Johns Suite £479 (restricted funds) , Parasol storage box, tools and plants for the Sensory Garden £490, Mini craft trolley and sundry arts and craft items £240, Christmas presents for Patients £157, Stand for donated keyboard £54, Crockery and tumblers for Jack Johns Suite £53 (restricted funds) Easter Eggs for patients £41, Bluetooth speaker £38.

Other expenditure included the annual subscription to Attend (our National Association) which includes our insurance, printing, advertising and sundry items amounting to £790.

Total receipts for the year were £9073 with expenditure being £15722, produced an excess of expenditure over income of £6649, which reduced our reserves to £113951, including £705 restricted funds to be used for the Jack Johns Suite.

At the end of our financial year, provisions of £5297 were made to provide various items for the Hospital.

Should anyone require a copy of the accounts, these can be made available on request at the end of the meeting.

This concludes the Report for the year, for adoption

Sue Atkins, Hon Treasurer.

**Proposed sandy Bartlett Seconded Paul Phillips AGREED**

**Ken thanked Sue for the meticulous way in which she looked after our finances**

6. **Election of Committee Members:**

**Election of a new committee Member**

Mrs. Denise Mitchell **Proposed** Heather Gilbert, **Seconded Maggie Wherry** **AGREED**

Members retiring by rotation Ann Ferris, Liz James, Jenny Mann, Suzanne Sampson, Penny Truscott.

**All willing to stand for another year. Proposed Anne Russell seconded Moira Dixon** **AGREED**

Ken asked if the meeting would agree to elect the following en block. This was agreed.

**Election of Officers:**

Chairman Ann Ferris

Vice Chairman

Treasurer Sue Atkins

Secretary Wendy Wallis

Assist Secretary Jenny Mann

**Proposed Liz James Seconded Penny Whittle** **AGREED**

7. **Appointment of President 2023 - 2024 – Mrs Ann Ferris**

Ann took the chair and proposed Dr Ken Whittle on behalf of the Committee to continue as President for the year 2023 – 2024. Ken’s support and knowledge of the NHS is invaluable to us and we value his contribution to the League.

**Proposed Jenny Mann Seconded Paul Phillips** **AGREED**

8. **Appointment of Independent Financial Examiners**

Atkins Ferrie from the Old Cattle Market, Helston has agreed to be our Examiners.

**Proposed Sue Atkins Seconded Jenny Mann** **AGREED**

9. **Appointment of Bankers**

Messrs Barclays Bank plc – **Proposed Sue Atkins Seconded Heather Gilbert** **AGREED**

10. **Thanks from the Hospital, Hospital Sister Trudy Addington**

Trudy came to work at the hospital in 2006 under Sister Sandy and became Hospital Sister in 2018. We are a very well equipped hospital and I would like to thank the LOF for their support in helping us. The NHS funding is rather limited and it is wonderful to have the help of the League of Friends for those extra essentials. Bladder scanner, quatro mattresses, projector and screen, replacements TV, Craft Trolley, Money for the patients at Christmas and Easter, picnic benches for the staff and patients, reclining chairs for the patients, and chairs in the relative suite and for the maintenance of the Fish Tank in Reception.

Trudy said Matron Lynda sent her good wishes and Trudy looked forward to working with the Committee in the future. There were a couple of requests and these would be sent via email for the next meeting. A mobility frame and pump.

Ken thanked Trudy for her kind words and as a matter of interest met someone going to Tesco's who recognized him and said his son has come to the hospital a couple of times and always enjoys watching the fish in Reception.

Ken said it is not easy to run this hospital which is open 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The MIU unit is becoming more important for the area as it is often difficult for patients to get to see their Doctor and we do appreciate the way this hospital is run.

11.

**Mayor of Helston Miles Kenchington -**

The Mayor, Miles Kenchington, said he was delighted to join us today and would like to say his email address and home address is all on the Helston Council website if anyone wishes to contact him at any time. Email [m.kenchington@helston-tc.gov.uk](mailto:m.kenchington@helston-tc.gov.uk) He also said he knows his fellow Councilors at the meeting today, Paul and Ronnie would also be pleased to hear from anyone at any time.

The Mayor said it has been over 100 years since the Hospital was opened and 65 years since the first inaugural meeting of the League of Friends of Helston Hospital.

The League of Friends does make a difference to the comfort of the patients at the hospital by providing beds, equipment and gifts for the patients and I thank them for the support they are giving the Hospital on behalf of the community.

Ken Thanked the Mayor for his kind words and said we would adjourn for tea as it had come into the room while waiting for our speaker.

Tea and Biscuits were served by Heather Gilbert.

Raffle Maggie Wherry

Unfortunately our speaker Mr. Chris Mitchell Head of Integrated Professions Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust was delayed and unable to attend our meeting.

12. After Tea our President introduced Nigel Walker to members and asked him to say a few words.

13. Nigel Walker Governor from the NHS Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

<https://www.cornwallft.nhs.uk/governors-and-members>

email: nigelcwalker@gmail.com

Nigel Walker explained he was a Governor and asked all present to go to the website above and become a member. He explained 'this only applies to Foundation Trusts and its supposed to give us more "freedom", but the hard times aren't over yet. We can only do what we can'.

Mr Walker went on to say Covid had made a big difference to the NHS. The staff have difficulty keeping up with the amount of work, and it has taken a toll on them. Many hospitals were built over 100 years ago and are not suitable for purpose. However, the staff are doing their best and if anyone wishes to contact him at any time on the website above please feel free to do so. Please become a member!

Ken thanked Mr Walker for taking the time to say a few words which was very much appreciated.

There being no further business Ken declared the meeting closed at 4.00 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming along this afternoon.

Signed Chairman

Date