

THE LEAGUE *of* FRIENDS *of* THE HELSTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
Registered Charity Number: 285734

Minutes of the 67th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Held at Helston Community Hospital
- Monday 25th November 2024 at 2.15pm

Attendees:

- Dr Ken Whittle, Ann Ferris, Sue Atkins, Wendy Wallis, Jo Parish, Helen Nelson, Nigel Walker, Miles Kenchington (Mayor of Helston), Jenny Mann, Heather Gilbert, Sandy Bartlett, Tim Grattan-Kane, Anne Russell, Moira Dixon, Lilian Chapman, Bill Russell, Linda Pascoe, Liz James, Barry Cornish, Baden Christophers, Penny Truscott, Dr Ian Wort, Ron Williams, Maggie Wherry, Sally Robinson, Jenny Toy, Denise Mitchell,

Apologies

- Chris Roberts, Jo Coward, Joy Mitchell, Penny Whittle, Lynda McHale, Trudy Addington

Welcome and introductions

- Dr Ken Whittle welcomed everyone to the meeting including our guests, to include the Worshipful Mayor of Helston, Miles Kenchington, our guest speaker, Nigel Walker and also Ronnie Williams (town councillor and former mayor).
- He also spoke about some people now missing - Audrey Johns and Barbara Crabb, former committee members who passed away recently, and Ivan Perry, an agitator, always a great presence at meetings. All of these people will be missed very much.

Acceptance of minutes of previous AGM

- It was proposed that the minutes of the AGM of Monday 11th December 2023 be accepted
- Proposed by Jenny Mann
- Seconded by by Sandy Bartlett
- Everyone was in favour and it was passed.

Chairman's report

'I start this report with an event from December 2023 - last year. Several committee members, and others, gathered at the hospital a few days before Christmas to sing carols to the patients under the director of Pastor Martin Pinnock. It was a lovely occasion which really seemed to start Christmas, and feedback from patients and relatives showed how much it was appreciated.

In Marc we were delighted to be included in the celebration for Matron Lynda McHale who had worked for the NHS for 50 years - quite a milestone. The League presented her with a hydrangea for her garden to mark the occasion.

We were approached by Sarah Corbridge, owner of Lismore, about undertaking some fundraising for Lismore Ward here in the hospital, and to this end a coffee morning was held in the house and garden in May. It was a beautiful morning, the garden was looking

wonderful and the event was well attended and we thank Sarah and her daughters for their hard work and generosity to the hospital.

In July we held our annual fete, opened this year by Helston Mayor, Miles Kenchington. The weather was not as kind to us and I don't think as many people attended but we still managed to increase the total raised over the previous year which was amazing. The fete takes a lot of hard work by committee members and hospital staff but it is so important as a showcase to welcome the public into the hospital for a social occasion. Events such as the fete are only possible with the support of the committee who give their time freely, as well as producing cakes and raffle prizes whenever asked, and I thank them for this.

Both True and Faithful and Penhallaz Masonic Lodges have presented us with generous donations again this year, Our secretary Wendy, together with Hayden, attended the presentation in Tintagel to receive the cheques on our behalf, It is quite an event and the amount of money given out to Cornish charities is overwhelming. Requests for equipment and other items to help the staff and patients have come to us regularly through the year and we have been pleased to supply them when asked, Sue will give further details of our purchases.

We have welcomed three new members to the committee. Tim Grattan-Kane, Jenny Toy and Joanne Parish, and we thank them for their interest and hope they will enjoy being involved. On a sad note we remember committee member Suzane Sampson, who sadly died at Christmas last year after a short illness, We have also heard recently of the death of former member Barbara Crabbe who had moved away from Cornwall to be nearer her family.

Thanks go to Anne Russell for organising the flower arrangers for the displays in the foyer - which as usual are looking wonderful, and to Maggie and Jo for once again taking on the selling of our Christmas cards.

My personal thanks go to Wendy and Sue for all the work that they put in behind the scenes, to the whole committee for their support and to Ken, our President, for his help and encouragement. Last, but by no means least, we thank all the wonderful staff of the hospital without whom we would not be here today.

This is my final report as I pass on the Chairmanship to Helen and I want to thank everybody again for the support I have received over the past three years. It has been much appreciated.

This is my report for the year and I recommend its adoption.

- Presented by Ann Ferris, Chair
 - Proposed by Tim Grattan-Kane
 - Seconded by Penny Truscott
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed.

Treasurer's Report

'Ladies and gentlemen, I present the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st July 2024.

Income totalled £13,783 comprising of:

- *Fundraising activities:*
 - *Annual Fete - £1,361*
 - *Coffee morning - £822*
 - *Surplus on sale of Christmas cards - £126*
 - *AGM Raffle £87*
- *Donations in lieu of flowers - £1,527*
- *Degibna Prayer Chapel - £260*
- *Helston Central Methodist Church - £661*
- *Penhallelz Lodge - £1,100*
- *Lizard & Mounts Bay Methodist Circuit - £1,990*
- *Baden Christophers 90th Birthday donations - £481*
- *Helston Bridge Club - £528*
- *Inner Wheel Helston/Lizard - £150*
- *True and Faithful Lodge 318 - £500*
- *Sale of Derek Carter books - £32*
- *Other Donations - £370*
- *Aquarium Collection Tin - £25*
- *Interest on reserves - £3,583*
- *Subscriptions - £180, with those for the current year now falling due.*

Expenditure for the direct benefit of the Hospital totalled £11,654 made up as follows:

- *2 Riser recliner chairs - £3,731*
- *2 Vital signs monitors - £2,879*
- *2 Picnic benches - £1,008*
- *Taurus walker - £819*
- *4 Replacement dining room chairs for Jack Johns Suite - £773*
- *Maintenance of the Aquarium in Outpatients' Waiting Room - £546*
- *Removal and replacement of TVs - £956*
- *4 Replacement parasols for Sensory Garden - £200*
- *Plants for Sensory Garden - £170*
- *Art materials and storage boxes for Activities co-ordinators - £180*
- *Christmas presents for Patients - £233*
- *Easter Eggs for Patients - £49*
- *Other sundry items bought for hospital - £110*

Other expenditure included the annual subscription to Attend (our National Association), which includes our insurance, printing, advertising and sundry items amounting to £805.

Total receipts for the year were £13,783 with expenditure being £12,459, produced a surplus of income of £1,324, which increased our reserves to £115,275, including £936 restricted funds, £822 to be used for the Lismore Ward and £114 to be used for the Jack Johns Suite.

At the end of our financial year, provisions of £15,496 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.

- Presented by Sue Atkins, Hon Treasurer
 - Proposed by Tim Grattan-Kane
 - Seconded by Ian Wort
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed.

Election of Committee members

- Led by Dr Ken Whittle, who requested that we propose on block.
- New committee members elected as follows:
 - Mr Tim Grattan-Kane, Mrs Jenny Toy and Mrs Joanne Parish
 - Proposed by Helen Nelson
 - Seconded by Maggie Wherry
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed
- Retiring by rotation, and all willing to be re-elected
 - Moira Dixon, Helen Nelson, Wendy Wallis and Maggie Wherry
 - Proposed by Heather Gilbert
 - Seconded by Jenny Mann
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed

Election of officers

- Led by Dr Ken Whittle
- Chairman
 - Mrs Helen Nelson
 - Proposed by Jenny Mann
 - Seconded by Penny Truscott and Maggie Wherry
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed
- Vice Chairman
 - Mrs Moira Dixon
 - Proposed by Liz James
 - Seconded by Sandy Bartlett
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed
- Secretary
 - Mrs Joanne Parish
 - Proposed by Sally Robinson
 - Seconded by Heather Gilbert
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed
- Assistant Secretary
 - This was not covered in the meeting but Jenny Mann agreed to help Jo out on an informal basis if she needed the minutes taking in her absence,
- Treasurer
 - Mrs Sue Atkins

- Proposed by Moira Dixon
 - Seconded by Sandy Bartlett
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed
- Publicity Officer
 - This was not discussed
- Website
 - Mrs Wendy Wallis
 - Proposed by Anne Russell
 - Seconded by Jenny Mann
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed

Appointment of the President for 2024-2025

- Led by Mrs Ann Ferris who said that Ken's knowledge of the NHS and the committee is invaluable.
 - Dr Ken Whittle
 - Proposed by Ann Ferris and Heather Gilbert
 - Seconded by Anne Russell
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed
- Ken said that he was honoured to continue to do this and sincerely thanked everyone for their support.

Appointment of Independent Financial Examiners

- BK Plus Limited, The Old Cattle Market, Helston. Sue Atkins explained that BK Plus Limited were previously Atkins Ferrie. There are no changes in the way they act - just a change of name.
 - Proposed by Sue Atkins and Jenny Mann
 - Seconded by Tim Grattan-Kane
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed

Appointment of Bankers

- Barclays Bank Plc
 - Proposed by Sue Atkins and Ian Wort
 - Seconded by Penny Truscott
 - Everyone was in favour and it was passed

Questions from the floor

- Dr Ken Whittle said that this would be dealt with in 'Any other business'

Matron

- Matron Lynda McHale couldn't make the meeting - Senior Staff Nurse Karen from Lismore Ward spoke on her behalf. She said that the equipment that has been provided is very good, especially the Taurus equipment and the Rise recliner chairs. She said to be reassured that these are being put to good use and the staff are very grateful to the committee for what is being done in the background.
- Ken said that the Friends provides a degree of ownership by the community of the hospital - and long may it continue. We admire what happens here very much

- it was very difficult during Covid times - work went on even though it was hidden from the rest of the world, and the recovery rate was much higher than expected. The MIU is open most days from 8am - 8pm and works really well and the hospital is a very valuable asset and we are delighted to support them.

- Lizzie, the Activities Coordinator at the hospital also said thank you so much for our help.
- A round of applause was given to Karen and Lizzie.

Mayor of Helston

- Miles Kenchington. Miles congratulated us on the way that the meeting was chaired, and on Ken's democratic leadership style. He said that he had the pleasure of attending the fete which was a wonderful afternoon. It was really enjoyable and great fun, and it was fabulous to hear how much was raised. It was lovely to see the number of faces here today, and he said how he believes the hospital provides such a good service to us, it is part of the community and everyone is happy. He wanted to say thank you to everyone here for their support to the friends of the hospital and also to the hospital staff. It is a fabulous place.

Any other business

- Led by Dr Ken Whittle
- 16.12.2024 - Candlelit Choir Service at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Helston at 7pm. Flyers were given out - half the proceeds will be coming to the League of Friends - refreshments will be available.
- 13.12.2024 - Helston Football Club - 7pm - the hospital staff are running a quiz. Anyone is invited to bring a team. Funds will be raised for goodies for people working in the hospital on Christmas Day.
- Wendy Wallis - Ken spoke about how amazing Wendy has been and that it had been a labour of love for her - then Sue Atkins also said a few words of thanks to her too. A gift and flowers were presented to Wendy. Wendy was very grateful for the gifts and thanked everyone.

Speaker

- Nigel Walker, West Constituency Governor of NHS Partnership Foundation Trust was introduced and welcomed by Ken.
- Nigel chatted to us about the ins and outs of the Trust and Governorship.
- He said that he was very interested to see that everyone at the meeting was a member of the Trust.
- He spoke to us about how important volunteers are as volunteers want to put the work in and they get it done. He said that as a voluntary sector, if we can persuade others that we know to become members, he would be very grateful to us.
- He also spoke to us about the Duty of Candour - as it is now a legal obligation in the NHS that requires people to be open and transparent with patients and families when something goes wrong. Employees need to feel safe to report

mistakes without the fear of punishment and errors should be seen as opportunities for learning, rather than punished.

- Ken thanked Nigel, and said that the exercise of the Duty of Candour is important, and he had learned immensely from Nigel. Everyone applauded.

Closure of the meeting

- Helen Nelson presented Ann Ferris with some flowers for all her hard work.
- Dr Ken Whittle thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and drew the raffle when refreshments were served.

Minutes were taken by Joanne Parish

Signed

Dated