

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF HELSTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Minutes of 64th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE HOSPITAL

ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: Stephanie Pomeroy Fundraising Manager from Sowenna, Councillor Tim Gratton-Kane , Adam Riddel and Don Windsor representing True and Faithful 318 Lodge and Penhellaz Lodge, Councillor Ronnie Williams, guests, friends and Committee Members. Matron Lynda McHale and Hospital Sister Trudy Addington. There were 38 present including 14 Committee Members.

1. **Dr Ken Whittle.** Ken welcomed everyone to the meeting including the Deputy Mayor and was glad Matron was in good health this year.
2. **Apologies:** The Mayor of Helston Councillor John Martin, Councillor Gillian Geer, Chris Roberts Cornwall and IOS League of Friends, Father Paul Andrew, Margaret Eva, Crete Pooley, Ruby Davis.
3. **Minutes of the 63rd Annual General Meeting** had already been circulated to members and put on the website, Ken asked for their adoption
Proposed Barbara Crabb, seconded Maggie Wherry AGREED
4. **Matters Arising:** None
5. **Chairman's Report:**

Firstly, I would like to personally thank our President, Ken, Sue our treasurer and Wendy our Secretary and all the committee for their support over the last year. Everyone has stepped up when, for family or personal health reasons I have been unable to carry out my duties. We are blessed with a dedicated committee, passionate about both the present and the future of this hospital, full of new ideas to both fund raise and raise awareness of the importance of this facility.

Sadly this year we lost one of our oldest and dearest past members, Joyce Oliver. Joyce was a true friend to this hospital and a passionate worker for the League of Friends for many decades.

Our fund raising events have been extremely well supported. The nurses did their annual sponsored walk; the rain just about kept away for our cream tea afternoon; the Lodges of Penhellaz and True and Faithfull 318 presented us with a cheque for £1100; family members who had made use of the Jack Johns suite and patient family members sent lovely messages of thanks and generous donations to the League of Friends and despite location difficulties, the Fete was again well supported. We were very grateful for the forbearance of out-patients, staff and supporters and were blessed with good weather. Also Tesco has supported us with resources for events.

We again developed our community links this year with Commander Martin Barlow from

Culdrose opening our fete. Wendy and I went to an evening at the base where different local organisations were treated to a tour, refreshments and the viewing of the sunset ceremony. We were invited to take part in many discussions about the future of health care provision in the Helston/Lizard area. Many organisations are working together with medical teams to assess the needs of the community and the most efficient resources needed to meet those needs. We attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Helston and the Mayor Choosing Civic Reception.

Mental health is becoming more and more of a concern for health care workers and we are delighted to have as our guest speaker a member of the Sowenna team, Sowenna being the new facility in Bodmin for teenage in-patients. The sensory garden and the general outdoor areas at this hospital play an important part in the well being of both patients and staff. The Helston/Lizard Rotary club and our dedicated gardening chum, "Chuck" have worked tirelessly with committee members to keep these areas looking good. We are very grateful to Wendy and her husband, Hayden, who have provided transport and have disposed of the waste materials. Greater maintenance of large shrubs is now required and the committee are looking into acquiring some professional help to reduce some of these shrubs and make the areas more manageable.

Our main function as a committee is to raise funds to provide resources to make life for both patients and staff function as well as it can. This year the main purchases have been beds and bedside cabinets. Some of the existing beds had been condemned and the hospital was having to hire beds in at considerable cost. With money available and the risk of beds being closed the decision was made by the League of Friends to purchase new beds.

The staff in this hospital are our best resource. My husband had occasion to be resident here for some time and the care was exemplary. Because the local surgeries were unable to continue supporting the hospital with doctors, two doctors are now employed to cover the hospital and this is working extremely well. We say a big thank you to all the staff involved with Helston Community Hospital.

And what of the future? We as a committee feel very optimistic about the future. Very recently a lot of work has been done on the hospital, structural alterations, changes in the use of certain areas more community clinics. This is all positive. The future use of this hospital may not be exactly the same as it has been but we feel there definitely is a future. Thank you for your support and please spread the word about how important and amazing the facilities are in this hospital for the well being of the community in Helston and the Lizard peninsula.

Proposed by Jo Coward and Seconded Dr I Wort. **AGREED**

Ken thanked Heather for all her hard work as Chairman over the last.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Sue Atkins gave the following report for the year ended 31 July 2019

The Treasurer reported our Income totalled £21,241.00 comprising of Fundraising activities Annual Fete £1451; AGM Raffle £116; Late donation re 2018 Fete £45; Donations in lieu of flowers £5999. (Including £550 restricted funds); Partial payment of legacy from the late Mrs Nancy Barnecutt £7500; The Singing Seagulls £2500; Cream Tea held by Mr M Brown on

Gunwalloe £680; True and Faithfull Lodge 318 £600; Penhellez Lodge £500; CD & KJ Clarke £250; Barclays bank compensation £175; Mrs M Phillips £130; Mr and Mrs Perry Pascoe £100; other donations £356. Aquarium collection tin £21; Interest on reserves £573; Subscriptions £245 with those for the current year now falling due

Expenditure for the direct benefit of the Hospital totalled £17,889.00 made up as follows
11 Enterprise beds and mattresses £14609; TV in Room 3 and outpatients etc £803; Bedside cabinet £625; Maintenance of the Aquarium £574; 2 straps for Sabina Hoist £504; Christmas monies for patients £358; Maintenance of Garden £166; Puzzles etc for patients therapy £131; Visitors book crockery etc Jack Johns Suite £71 (restricted funds); Easter Eggs for patients £48.

Other expenditure included the annual subscription to Attend (our National Association) printing, advertising and sundry items amount to £1076.

Total receipts for the year were £21,241.00 with expenditure being £18,985,00 producing a surplus of £2276, which increased our reserves to £111,817.00 including £744 restricted funds to be used for the Jack Johns Suite.

At the end of our financial year, provisions of £883 were made to provide various items for the Hospital. Should anyone require a copy of the accounts, these can be made available on request from the Treasurer.

This concludes the Report for another successful year for adoption. Sue Atkins, Treasurer.

Proposed Penny Truscott , Seconded Liliias Chapman AGREED

Ivan Perry congratulation Sue Atkins for a very professional report and said how much we appreciate the work that she does for the LOF.

Ken thanked Sue from the Chair for her excellent work at Treasurer.

7. Election of Committee Members:

Ken said the Committee would like to elect Liz James a retired nurse onto the Committee

Proposed Moira Dixon Seconded Helen Nelson AGREED

Member retiring by rotation and willing to be re-elected Ann Ferris, Jenny Mann, Penny Truscott, Wendy Wallis, Maggie Wherry.

Proposed Ian Wort Seconded Hospital Sister Trudy Addington AGREED

i. Election of Officers:

The committee is proposing the following be re-elected en block

Chairman Heather Gilbert

Vice Chairman Ann Ferris

Treasurer Sue Atkins

Secretary Wendy Wallis

Assist Secretary Jenny Mann

Publicity Officer Helen Nelson

Proposed Paul Phillips Seconded Penny Truscott AGREED

8. **Appointment of President 2019 to 2020 – Mrs Heather Gilbert**

Heather took the chair and proposed Dr Ken Whittle on behalf of the Committee to continue as President for the year 2019 – 2020

Proposed The Committee Seconded Paul Phillips AGREED

9. **Appointment of Independent Financial Examiners**

Ken said the Committee proposed Linda Dunford of Kitchen & Brown continues in this role.

Proposed Sue Atkins Seconded Paul Phillips AGREED

10. **Appointment of Bankers**

Messrs Barclays Bank plc – Proposed Sally Robinson Seconded Liliias Chapman AGREED

11. **Any other Business:**

Ivan Perry said we must be careful with our Facebook account we do not get bullying. Ken said we were aware of this and that Helen is very careful of what she puts up on our page.

12. **Matron Lynda McHale**

Lynda said this has been a weird year and lot has happened over the last twelve months. Our loyal LOF have worked hard supplying us with our requirements and we would like to thank them for all their support throughout the year.

On the positive side work is nearly complete on the updating of the Hospital and we hope the get the Hospital back to normal at the end of September. We have a new reception area, new boilers fitted, fire precautions and all electric wiring is up to date. All wards will be re-opened shortly and I am pleased to report our patients are being sent home 9 days on average.

We have taken on new staff, younger blood and we entered the local Carnival and came 3rd. Hopefully we will enter again next year.

Neill has been promoting the Hospital for us in many ways and we hope many of you can join us on Friday at the Remembrance Service at 7.00 p.m. in the Hospital.

Ken thanked Matron and said the Hospital always has a lovely atmosphere and the staff work hard to maintain standards.

13. **Councilor Tim Grattan-Kane, Deputy Mayor**

Tim said he would like to say a few words on behalf of the Town Council.

The Council would like to recognize Dr Ken Whittle for all his work in the past as a General Practitioner and for the 10 years he has been President of the League of Friends and make him a Freeman of Helston.

For once Ken was lost for words!

14. **Speaker – Stephanie Pomeroy, Fundraising Manager from Sowenna.** Sowenna is an NHS unit run by Cornwall NHS Foundation Trust. The unit provides inpatient and out patient treatment for young people with mental issues aged between 13 and 18. Sowenna means Success and Welfare in Cornish

Stephanie thanked us for the invitation and said the unit had 14 beds for under 18. 12 ordinary and 2 high dependency beds. Before all young people with mental issues had been sent out of the County in the past to other parts of the Country. Working closely with Invictus trust we raised funds and after 15 months the building is up and running and there are now 8 people at the unit. In the first week we brought people back to Cornwall. The beds and staff funded by NHS but we provide additional equipment and parental accommodation. There is a Sensory Garden, children get their education while in Hospital, Café on site which is funded by Invictus Trust. Mini bus to take patients out. Multi gym for the patients. In the future we would like a pop up stage, screen and projector, virtual reality room to help calm patients. We raised £400,000 before opening but we would like to continue to develop and extend the program.

There were some questions from the floor after which Ken thanks Stephanie for coming to talk to us today and said there would be a collecting bowl at the door is anyone would like to put some money in for Sowenna or anyone could make donations through their website <https://sowenna.cornwallft.nhs.uk/>

There being no further business Ken declared the meeting closed at 3.30 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming along this afternoon.

Signed Chairman

Date



Dr Ken Whittle, Stephanie Pomeroy, Heather Gilbert