

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF ALDEBURGH AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL (Charity No 247890)
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2nd MAY 2018
AT 2.30PM IN THE PARISH CHURCH HALL

Introduction

Before the formal meeting began, the President welcomed Christine Gale, North East Community Health Team Lead, to describe the work of a staff of fifty District and Community Nurses and Therapists caring for patients in Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham, Framlingham and Earl Soham. Christine explained how 'care closer to home' aimed to increase patient choice and reduce hospital admissions and length of stay. Health and social care are to be more closely integrated to achieve these goals and to improve still further end of life care and respite care. Referral is through GPs and the ambulance service, while self-referral is also possible on 0300 123 2425; the League of Friends will add this number to its website: www.aldeburghhospitalfriends.org.uk. Christine explained that a District Nurse leads a team of Community Nurses. She expressed her gratitude to the Friends for funding the remembrance shop to assist patients with dementia and the proposed improvements to the gym. Her talk was well-received for being informative and clear.

The President then introduced Anne Parsons, Sensory Garden Project Manager, who explained how the sensory garden would serve a number of different purposes. It will provide sensory stimulation for patients with autism, dementia or sensory impairment. The sensory garden will offer a calm place for patients or relatives suffering with stress or depression and a safe space for those coping with bereavement. Features of the garden include raised beds of different heights, a scented walkway, a pavilion, outdoor musical instruments, sculpture, a bench designed for listening and talking, soft lighting and level pathways for ease of wheelchair access.

AGM

The President Tony Bone took the chair and the formal meeting commenced at 2.50 pm.

1. Apologies

These were received from a number of people including Selma Hawkins, Pam Tile and J. and E. Tipping.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 were adopted and unanimously approved and signed, with Val Simper proposing and Debbie Bone seconding.

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mike Bone presented the Accounts, copies of which had been given to all present. The accounts have been reviewed by Francis Clarks of Ipswich and will be presented to the Charities Commission. Mike reported that income had increased, thanks in part to grants for the sensory garden and to a 5% rise in subscriptions. There was a surplus for the year of £11,000. The capital account stands at £520,000, which is invested in funds covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Nicky Gray proposed that the Accounts be accepted and Debbie Bone seconded this. The Accounts were approved unanimously.

5. Election of examiner of the accounts

The Treasurer recommended that Francis Clarks of Ipswich should continue to audit the accounts. Val Simper proposed this and Jenny Jones seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

6. Chair's Report

This report had been circulated to all members of the League of Friends with the Agenda of the AGM. Mair reported that Aldeburgh Hospital is now fully staffed thanks mainly to the flexible rota system our matron Michelle Fletcher has introduced. It has had full bed occupancy for most of the year and just recently has exceeded the 20 bed capacity due to the winter 'flu crisis. The League of Friends has embarked upon and completed several projects using Funds generously donated by you and supplemented by various gifts and legacies throughout the year.

We have purchased a new interactive reminiscence system to provide therapy for those patients who present with memory loss and financed the complete refurbishment of the beverage area in the Hospital incorporating a new refrigerator, dishwasher, lockable cupboards and most importantly the hot water from the boiler can now be accessed only by staff and no longer presents a safety issue for those patients with dementia. We are in the process of refurbishing the Relatives/Quiet room and replacing the chairs in the Waiting Area; we will soon finance the refurbishment of the Gym in the Physiotherapy Unit. The Friends are supporting the establishment of a Sensory Garden. This is the brain child of Anne Parsons who has worked amazingly hard to acquire funds and is Project Managing the garden. Last but by no means least, we are still trying to get the X-ray equipment at the Hospital renewed. This is subject to a Commissioners' Review, a process that will take some time. The existing equipment was bought by the League of Friends and is becoming out of date. If we get the go ahead this will involve considerable fund raising! None of the above could be done without the generosity of you the Friends and the enthusiasm and energy of the Committee who give generously of their time.

7. Election of the Committee for the year 2018/19

Mike Bone is stepping down from the role of Treasurer. Tony thanked for his sterling service over the last six years. The election of the Committee including Jane Linford as the new Treasurer was proposed by Vera Hitchcock and seconded by Anne Parsons and was approved unanimously.

8. Any Other Business: There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting The next AGM will be held on Wednesday 1st May 2019. The President closed the formal AGM at 3.15pm.