

FRIENDS OF SURBITON AND TOLWORTH HEALTH COMMUNITY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 via Zoom.

PRESENT:

Sandra Berry (Chair and Trustee, FoS&THC)
Patrick O'Sullivan (Treasurer, FoS&THC)
Derek Hirst (Trustee, FoS&THC)
Polly Healy (Trustee, FoS&THC)
Helen Hutson (Trustee, FoS&THC)
Ray Stonehill (Trustee, FoS&THC)
Pip Mumford

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Geoff Austin (Kingston Hospital League of Friends)
Diana Childs

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed those present and passed on apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM held on 5th December 2019 were accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(a) Sandra Berry proposed and Helen Hutson seconded a motion that Patrick O'Sullivan be re-elected as Treasurer. The motion was passed unanimously.

(b) Patrick O'Sullivan proposed and Polly Healy seconded a motion that Sandra Berry be re-elected as Chair. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT TO YEAR ENDED MARCH 2020

The year could be considered to have been in two sections, the first from April 2019 to February 2020 and the second starting in March 2020, when Covid-19 restrictions were first put in place.

Part One

In the first part of the year, the Friends continued with their regular annual activities of providing a wreath on Remembrance Sunday and arranging Christmas parties, cards and presents for patients at Teddington Memorial and Tolworth Hospitals. Thanks were due to Derek Hirst and Jenny Butler for arranging the former and to Garsons Farm for their generous discount of 10% from the cost of the presents.

A contribution was also made to the staff Christmas meal.

Hedley Kaye continued to entertain the patients in both venues; newspapers were delivered at Teddington Memorial Hospital along with a trolley service; and chaplaincy services were made available to Kingston patients through Teddington Memorial League of Friends.

A request was received from Your Healthcare for tables and chairs to encourage communal meals at Teddington Memorial Hospital. However, while the costs were being investigated the Corona virus pandemic started, making communal eating undesirable. This request is therefore on hold.

A request was received from the Community Older People's Team at Tolworth Hospital for the provision of a bench that could be used by elderly and/or disabled patients when they were waiting for their transport home. It proved possible to source this on site, the

Facilities staff moved it to the right place and it is now well used and appreciated.

Part Two

Since March 2020 visitors have not been allowed at Teddington Memorial Hospital and Hedley Kaye has had to cease providing entertainment. Meetings at Hollyfield House have been curtailed – hence the 2020 AGM is being held via Zoom rather than face-to-face.

However, despite Covid, the landscape gardeners completed the David Wooldridge Memorial Garden. David's family were thrilled at the work and the Trustees were delighted to be able to welcome them to the opening on 3rd August.

The Trustees would like to thank Julie Sherlock, Gwen Terry, Sandra Brathwaite and everyone else on the team who helped in the creation under somewhat adverse circumstances.

Other activities

(a) **St George's Mental Health NHS Trust** Apart from the request from the Older People's Team referred to above, there has been no communication with St George's about their role with the Friends since spring 2019.

(b) **The Ewell Road site** It had been hoped that the site formerly used by the NHS Agency would be available to build a new hospital that could be used for rehabilitation purposes, starting with rehousing the Kingston patients from Teddington. However, the decision was taken by NHS Estates et al to build flats on the Ewell Road site. Kingston primary care patients and staff will therefore remain at Teddington Memorial Hospital for the foreseeable future.

(c) **The Future** Given the lack of clarity on the part of St George's Mental Health NHS Trust and Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group regarding their long-term intentions, the Trustees have continued to struggle to work out the future role and purpose of the Friends. It had been hoped to have some sort of resolution so that a major event and recruitment drive could have been combined with

the opening of the David Wooldridge Memorial Garden. Lack of information prevailed, however, and Covid intervened.

Item 7 is an attempt to move this forward before further Trustees resign for one reason or another and there is nothing left. The Chair's message to the 2020 Annual General Meeting is therefore that: **WE MUST EITHER MOVE FORWARD ON THIS NOW, OR ORGANISE OUR OWN VIRTUAL RETIREMENT PARTY.**

The report was accepted by the meeting.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT AND THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 2019**

Patrick O'Sullivan presented the Treasurer's report and the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended April 2020.

He said that it had been a fairly quiet year, the major expenses being for Christmas parties and the provision of regular entertainment by Hedley Kaye. The combined bank accounts total some £140,000, demonstrating reasonable solvency. Four Standing Orders are still in existence for membership fees.

Sandra Berry proposed and Helen Hutson seconded a motion that the Treasurer's Report be adopted; the motion was passed unanimously.

Patrick O'Sullivan proposed and Sandra Berry seconded a motion that Mr W L Boonzaier be re-appointed as Auditor. The motion was passed unanimously.

7. **THE FUTURE OF THE FRIENDS OF SURBITON AND TOLWORTH HEALTH COMMUNITY**

THE FUTURE – YET ANOTHER DISCUSSION PAPER had been discussed by the Trustees and circulated in advance of the AGM. The background had been considered and discussed, including two fundamental issues - knowledge about and awareness of the Friends

of S & T Health Community has diminished over the past few years; and the number of volunteers wanting to take part has dropped as the Trustees waited for strategic decisions to be taken by NHS bodies.

Now, the plans of St George's MH Trust and Kingston CCG are clearer. In theory, while giving due deference to the implications of Covid-19, this would be the right time to re-launch the Friends. This would be the time to define its new role and to broadcast a programme of activities to raise funds and awareness in the interest of supporting the patients and staff of Cedars Ward and St George's at Tolworth.

Or - to decide now that the organisation has served its time and to bow out gracefully.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Trustees of the Friends of Surbiton and Tolworth Health Community recommend to the Annual General Meeting that **OPTION 6** be adopted.

OPTION 6 Investigate the possibility of working with Kingston Hospital League of Friends, thereby covering the patient journey of Kingston residents through primary, secondary and community care.

The Trustees would like to see communication channels opened with Kingston Hospital League of Friends as soon as possible and consideration given as to how efficient working could take place given the resulting increase in Trustees, volunteers and funds.

Allied to this potential collaboration with Kingston Hospital Friends, a sum equal to 25% of the FSTHC funds be given to St George's Mental Health NHS Trust Charity to be use for the purchase of items not covered within NHS budgets.

This recommendation was AGREED by the Annual General Meeting. The Chair will therefore seek a meeting with Geoff Austin

(Chair of Kingston Hospital League of Friends). Polly Healy, Derek Hirst and Helen Hutson will take part in these discussions; Julie Sherlock will also be invited.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Derek Hirst reported that he had received a phone call from an Occupational Therapist asking whether the Friends would be prepared to fund Christmas presents for some elderly, lonely, patients in the community. While being sympathetic to their need, it was felt that it could set off a chain of similar requests that could be better met by other bodies such as Staywell (Age Concern). The Chair will communicate this response to the OT.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.