



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 April 2021 at 5.30pm via ZOOM.

Present:

Carole Macartney (Interim Chairperson), Daniel Baigrie, Anthony Cornish, Miguel Hernandez, Charlotte Encombe, James Richardson, Yvonne Rafferty, Sarah Horne, Sheila West, Karen Docwra, Lynne Little, Kelly McLellan, Sally Westerman, David Booth, Paul Gillam, Sharon Young, Susana McCune, Christine Petrie, Bryan Searle.

In Attendance:

Nancy Campbell, Izabela Ateborska, Fiona Murdoch, Gillian Robinson, Ruth Brown.

1. Opening Remarks/Welcome. Carole Macartney thanked everyone involved in the Centre for attending and helping to keep it going during this exceptionally challenging year.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Angie Newsome, Rhona Ford, Paul Collins, Donna Morgan, Jock Encombe. All members had been sent an email invitation for the AGM and for those without email contacts, a telephone invite was made, with papers being sent to an email address of friend or family.

3. Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 June 2020

There were no questions from those attending. The Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and proposed by Charlotte Encombe and seconded by David Booth. The Minutes of the 2020 AGM were approved.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Annual Report 2020

Carole presented a Keynote presentation of the Annual Report 2020, which is also available online. We maintained our services, values, and purpose, while minimising our financial risk. We retained our core staff team, maintaining our relationships with clients, volunteers, and external partners. We managed to improve our financial position. We worked as per normal until 20 March when lockdown started, after which we started exploring other ways to connect with our clients: on-line physiotherapy, 'Have a Natter' and various outreach services. We were able to restart limited oxygen therapy sessions from July 6 until the second lockdown in December. We used the furlough scheme to support our staff and finances. We raised a significant amount of emergency Covid19 funding. A digital transformation programme was developed to create a new website and booking facility. A 5-year strategic review to provide a framework and direction for our future planning, goals and objectives has been developed. We delivered a TOTAL of 6639 therapies/support services, 71% of the 2019 total, a remarkable achievement in such a challenging and difficult year. We provided services to an increasing number of clients with other conditions. In 2015 51% of new clients were living with MS and by 2019 this figure had fallen very significantly to only 29%.

6. Approval of Annual Accounts 2020

Miguel Hernandez gave a short summary of the Annual Accounts. Income in 2020 (£293,796) was up on 2019 (£229,799) with a surplus of £54,610. Expenditure was around £2,000 lower than the previous year. The cash balance was £110,000 up from 2019 - due to our successful application for the Government's £50k Bounce Back Loan and around £60,000 of emergency Covid-19 funding from various sources. There were no questions on the Accounts. The accounts were proposed by David Booth and seconded by Daniel Baigrie. The Annual Accounts were therefore approved. Carole also thanked Paul Collins for his strategic input into the financial management of the organisation.

7. Election of Trustees

There have been several changes in trustees since 2019. We would like to gratefully acknowledge and record the contributions over 2020 by every one of them. Thanks were given to Yvonne Rafferty, who spent nine years as a Board member. Yvonne Rafferty and Paul Collins stepped down at AGM. Miguel Hernandez, Anthony Cornish, and James Richardson have been co-opted on to the board. All nominations were proposed by Carole Macartney and seconded by Charlotte Encombe. Carole Macartney stepped down as Chair but remain as a Board member. Nancy Campbell thanked Carole for her considerable contribution to the success of the organisation; stepping in at crisis point as Chair, for a second time. She has steadfastly guided and directed the Centre through some of its most challenging months and supported the staff and board with quiet encouragement, a sense of humour and shrewd insight.

To be ratified at the next ordinary meeting of the Board the new Office Bearers will be as follows:

Charlotte Encombe - Chair
Daniel Baigrie – Vice-Chair.
Miguel Hernandez – Treasurer.
Carole Macartney – Secretary.

8. Any Other Competent Business

Susanna McCue expressed her sincere thanks for the Centre, saying that she had no words to express her gratitude. Sarah Horne thanked Nancy and Carole for their hard work and reflected that being a volunteer for the Centre is very rewarding. Karen Docwra, fundraising consultant, said it was a privilege to work with the Centre and was proud to support the 'amazing' work that we do. Christine Petrie also expressed her gratitude for the work that we do.

9. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.20pm.



Signed:

Date: Approved at EGM on 21/06/2021

Chair: Charlotte Encombe

