

Axminster Hospital League of Friends

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on

Tuesday 21st May 2024, 6.30 pm in Axminster Heritage Centre

Opening remarks from the Chair	Steve Holt welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending. Steve Holt welcomed the guest speaker, Ned Brown, General Manager Community Care Group, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Apologies Received	Bill Sheppard, Maggie Stead, Julie Cockburn, Janet Prior, Bryan and Pat Groves, Mervyn Symes, Trish Ramsey, Andrew and Mary Moulding, Cllr Ian Hall
Guest Speaker – Ned Brown General Manager Community Care Group, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	<p>Ned explained that Community Care was a priority for the Trust. There was an emphasis on how to support people in their own home and how technology could be used to achieve this. For example, with a virtual ward where patients are discharged home but are still monitored by a medic at RDEH with Community Nurses administering any medication needed.</p> <p>The priorities for community care are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Avoid admissions to hospital2. To reduce falls3. End of life care4. Improve community waiting lists <p>In November 2023 a paper was accepted by the Board with the following actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To bend funding towards community services2. To trial a model of care for falls and frailty3. To develop a care coordination hub including nursing, medical and therapy staff4. To trial a community assessment unit at Sidmouth5. To work with primary care to develop end of life services. <p>Axminster Hospital is an important part of the provision of out-patient clinics. NHS Estates are reviewing all community hospitals to assess current use of space and the void space to make best use of the buildings.</p>
Questions from the Floor	No questions from the floor. Steve commented that he had attended a meeting with the Chair and Deputy Chief Executive of the Trust and he confirmed that there was a significant change in the message about Community Services. There was a commitment at Board level to update and repurpose Community estate to reduce waiting lists.

	<p>Steve expressed his thanks to Ned Brown, on behalf of the League of Friends, for coming tonight and enlightening us on the Trust's thoughts regarding Community Services. He explained that the League of Friends have had two meetings to explore how we can all work together to ensure longevity of the services to be supported by both the NHS and the League of Friends.</p>
<p>Reports Chair – Steve Holt</p>	<p>2023 – 24 has been a year of significant change in the League. It has been our Manager, Helen's, first full year, and her coordination and organisational skills have transformed the way the League works. Thanks were expressed to Helen.</p> <p>Last year we were focusing on improving our profile in the community to support our fundraising drives to help us achieve our "Big Goal" to provide an at home hospice service for the people of Axminster and the surrounding villages. Our profile- and fund-raising activities have enabled us to push the button regarding the introduction of this service. We have been in detailed discussions with the Community Nursing Team manager, Richard Anderson, and we have a draft proposal that has been approved by our Trustees and the Community network on the ground. We were waiting for the RDUH to feel comfortable that all the medical and clinical links are in place to ensure a smooth roll-out. Following a meeting this morning at the RDUH, we received a note confirming that the RDUH are fully supportive of the agreement as written, with some minor caveats regarding elements such as exact job titles, qualifications/ development of people in roles.</p> <p>Our activities have refreshed our coffers and Chrissy, our Treasurer will be giving you the numbers shortly. We have had a few generous legacies along with a significant increase in general donations. For these we can only say a massive thank you to everyone who has helped.</p> <p>Helen has cajoled a number of extra people into being an expanded group of willing volunteers but with the increase in fundraising events, we always need more.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to the Trustees for their support in all that we do and for Helen for keeping me on track.</p> <p>As we expand our services and functions, we need to bolster our overall "management"! If anyone who is interested in the health and wellbeing of the residents of Axminster and would like to be part of our future drives as a Trustee, please get in touch. We are always looking for extra volunteer support. Being a volunteer, by definition, means no commitment. But if you're free when we need people, help is always greatly appreciated and welcomed. So please, again, get in touch. All details are on our website.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Treasurer- Christine Cawley</p>	<p>Christine introduced herself as the Treasurer of the League of Friends. She was appointed to the role in September 2023.</p>

	<p>There are currently 47 members and during 2023 their Membership fees raised a total of £4436. We were fortunate to receive legacies totalling £13765.</p> <p>We have been supported by Chardstock Street Fayre with a donation of £150 Axminster Young Farmers with a donation of 1262.59 from their quiz night and Christmas tree collection. Teresa Denning and the Community Nurses from Axminster Hospital who raised £1315 from a raffle.</p> <p>We continue to support the hospital with funding of £3645 for the purchase of Community Nursing bags. These bags will enable the team to carry a more comprehensive stock in their cars, meaning they can give the right care at each visit, therefore reducing the need for subsequent visits and freeing more time to care.</p> <p>The accounts for the Year end 21.12.2023 are being finalised by our accountants. Our bank balance as at 30 April 2024 was £588332.57</p>
<p>Manager – Helen Arnold</p>	<p>There are currently 12 Trustees Steve Holt, Christine Cawley acting as Chair and Treasurer respectively. Mervyn Symes, Gillie George, Hazel Cross, Julian Hussey, Margaret Pike, Jeanette Ward, Dr Phil Taylor, Dr Sarah Ellis, Martin Diplock, Ann Veit.</p> <p>Although our Membership numbers have fallen, we are continuing to use other ways of connecting with the community. Our website is regularly updated with events and information and the number of people following our Facebook page has more than doubled since our last Open Meeting.</p> <p>Fundraising Since the last Open Meeting in July 2023, we have been continued with our fundraising events.</p> <p>We have had 2 mornings selling bacon butties at the Church Rooms and held a very successful, if slightly chilly, concert by Saxminster, a local Saxophone group, at the beginning of December last year. My thanks go to all the Trustees and volunteers who give up their time to support these events.</p> <p>As previously mentioned by the Treasurer we have been helped by several other organisations; Chardstock Street Fayre ; Axminster Young Farmers and we are also very grateful to Teresa Denning, who along with the Community Nurses at the Hospital organised a raffle and donated the proceeds to the League of Friends. Our thanks go to them.</p> <p>We have also received donations from several bereaved families. For which we are very grateful.</p>

	<p>Moving forwards On 8th June we are lucky to have the Exeter Male Voice Choir returning to perform at the Minster. Tickets are £8 and are available this evening from Chrissy, Archway bookshop or on our website. www. axmlf.com</p> <p>The following day we are spending the day on the farm. If you would like to join us, Hamish Bengough has kindly invited the League of Friends to provide refreshments at Dennings Down Farm Open day.</p> <p>We will be at the Axe Vale show on the 22nd and 23rd June. So, if you want your blood pressure checked or a free ear check, please come along to see us.</p> <p>On Saturday 13th July Mervyn and Jacqui Symes are kindly hosting a Cream Tea at Great Jackleigh Farm just outside Axminster. Tickets will be available soon.</p> <p>Later in the year we are back at the Church Rooms providing bacon rolls, coffee and cake; we have invited Saxminster again and hopefully we will have time to squeeze in some more fundraising before Christmas.</p>
AGM Business	
Minutes of the previous AGM	The minutes of the previous AOM held on Tuesday 25 th July 2023 had been distributed to the Trustees and were available to view on the website. The minutes were agreed as a true record.
Matters Arising	<p>A summer fair had not been ruled out as a fundraising opportunity but there were no plans to hold one this year.</p> <p>The Scott Rowe building is now known as Cross Keys House and several charities have moved into new facilities including Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support and Nourish.</p> <p>Axminster Hospital League of Friends have produced a list of out-patient clinics available at Axminster Hospital. This has been circulated to a number of venues and is also on our website.</p>
To agree the Annual report and Financial Statements	The accounts are currently being completed by Westcotts.
Election of Officers	<p>Steve Holt and Christine Cawley were elected as Chair and Treasurer respectively.</p> <p>Proposer: Dr Sarah Ellis Seconder: Julian Hussey</p> <p>The following Trustees have tendered their resignation; Ann Veit, Martin Diplock and Dr Philip Taylor</p> <p>The following have indicated their wish to stand for re-election; Martin Diplock and Dr Philip Taylor</p> <p>Proposer: Dr John Church Seconder: Julian Hussey</p> <p>This leaves a vacancy for a Trustee.</p> <p>Steve expressed his thanks to Ann Veit for her longstanding support of The League of Friends as both Trustee and Secretary.</p>

	It was proposed to appoint a Vice- Chair to operate in the absence of the Chair. Julian Hussey agreed to stand for this role. Proposer: Gillie George Seconder: Dr Phil Taylor
To appoint auditors until the conclusion of the next AGM	Westcotts were appointed as Auditors. Proposer: Steve Holt Seconder: Dr John Church
Date of next AGM	TBC
Close of Meeting	Steve closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.