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**Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 12 April 2023**

**1.30pm for 2pm start**

**Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield BN5 9EQ**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Barbara Garnell, President – in the Chair, Jean Plaskett, Chairman, Sheila Cheal, Treasurer, Lesley Etherton, Secretary. Angie Hyde and Christine Madeley, Trust committee.

Sue Seath, Sussex Area President, Gaenor Circus, Sussex Area Chairman, 28 members of the Sussex Area of NAFAS.

**1. Welcome**

The President opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Representatives from the Renal Unit were unfortunately unable to attend as they had to provide cover for the NHS Junior Doctors who were on strike.

Apologies were also received from Anne Lee, Christine Purkess and Ruth Collingridge.

**3. Minutes of the AGM held on 8 April 2022**

Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Christine Madeley and seconded by Pearl Mason. All agreed and the Minutes were signed.

**4. Matters Arising** – none

**5. Chairman’s Report – Jean Plaskett**

Thank you so much for coming this afternoon. We do appreciate your support. I am so thrilled to be chairman of the Sussex Kidney Trust especially when I think who my predecessors were. I want to say a big thank you to Jenny Coxhead who was chairman of the Trust for the last 30 plus years which is quite a record and one that I will certainly not be breaking. Jenny worked tirelessly for the Trust and under her chairmanship many thousands of pounds were raised.

‘Project Flora’ was the original name of the charity, and it was launched in the spring of 1967 with the aim of raising £50,000 to install equipment in the Royal Sussex County Hospital to help save the lives of people suffering from kidney disease – and they did it. That amount of

money is massive these days but in those days it was an unbelievable target – what tremendous vision the original committee had. Renamed The Sussex Kidney Trust it became a registered charity in 1968 and has, with the help of members of the Sussex Area of NAFAS, raised over £1.25 million pounds to date. Raising money these days is not easy, mainly because there are so many more local charities all vying for our money and also our NAFAS membership is probably half what it was in the 1960’s but I know the members of the Sussex Area are very proud to be connected to the SKT and one that they call their own although the two charities are completely separate. We are a registered charity and registered for VAT exemption. Because of this, when we buy equipment for the Renal Unit, we don’t have to pay VAT and buying equipment is all we ever do. We never send or donate any money. I think the NHS has always been strapped for money and the fact that we are able to purchase equipment for the unit is greatly appreciated not only by the staff but also by the patients, especially if we supply chairs for home dialysis.

We have given you a letter today that one of our members suggested might be a good way to raise money and I would be pleased to hear what your thoughts are on the idea. Other ideas are a cream tea with a mini flower demonstration and a quiz with fish and chips – this could be lunch time or evening. We have nearly always used The Henfield Hall for our fund raising but there is absolutely no reason why we shouldn’t try somewhere else – any suggestions? We rely greatly on the members of the Sussex Area for support so getting it right for them is important to us.

Just a little reminder that our Area Vice President, Ruth Collingridge, is hosting a Cream Tea in her garden on the 14th July – tickets are limited so pre booking is important and I would hate you to be disappointed. I understand there are now only five tickets left. All the details are in the Sussex Area Newsletter. The Kidney Trust has also been asked by Patcham Flower Club to provide cards to sell at the Spring Fair on Saturday 13th May at Patcham Methodist church – 11am - 3pm and the flower club will be providing the prizes for the raffle in aid of the SKT – all details in the Area Newsletter.

Once again, I thank you for your support today. Enjoy the quiz that Barbara Garnell has kindly organized and the tea that the committee has produced. My thanks, as always, must go to our committee who freely give so much and for the extra help today my thanks to Pamela, Pat, Janet and Avril.

Sara from Storrington Flower Club is having treatment at the unit in Brighton so although we would rather this was not happening from Sara’s point of view it’s good to know that one of our own is befitting from our fund raising. Sara kindly gave a short talk on her treatment at the unit and how much she appreciates all that they are doing for her.

Adoption of the Chairman’s Report was proposed by Carol Stanbridge and seconded by Barbara Harris. All agreed.

**6. Treasurer’s Report – Sheila Cheal**

The Accounts for the year 1 January to 31 December 2022, examined by Stewart Trownson, have been circulated.

The bank balance at 31 December 2022 was £11,695.81. This included an unpresented cheque for £2388 which has since been cleared.

The total income for the year was £8038.30. Our main source of income is from flower clubs, Tombolas at events, donations from members of the public and the sale of Jean’s cards which have made £800 this year.

Expenditure of £6888.43 paid for 16 Riva Recliner chairs and 7 stethoscopes.

£108.49 was for hall rental and AGM expenses, plus a partial payment for the cancelled quiz.

£120 was for the purchase of a new banner.

£243.19 purchased extra prizes for the tombolas at Sense of Place and the Sussex Area Show from the funds raised by Crowborough Flower Club at a cream tea.

Income over expenditure for the year was £678.19.

Adoption of the Treasurer’s Report was proposed by June Savory and seconded by Carol Lathleiff. All agreed.

**7. Appointment of Examiner**

Sheila Cheal confirmed that Stewart Trowson had agreed to continue as Examiner.

Proposed by Angie Hyde and seconded by Barbara Harris. All agreed.

**8. Election of Officers**

Jean Plaskett, Sheila Cheal and Lesley Etherton are happy to continue in their present roles as Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Proposed by Sue Richardson, seconded by June Savory. All agreed.

**9. Election of Committee Members**

Christine Madeley and Angie Hyde are happy to continue as committee members.

Proposed by Pearl Mason, seconded by Gill Davey. All agreed.

**10. President’s Remarks – Barbara Garnell**

Barbara thanked everyone for attending, and the Committee for providing the raffle prizes and the afternoon tea. It was a shame that no-one was able to attend from the Renal Unit, but we were delighted that Sara was willing to share her experience of the care provided by the unit over the last few years. She was presented with an arrangement of flowers.

**11. Any Other Business** – none

The meeting closed at 2.35pm.

This was followed by a quiz and afternoon tea.

Date of next AGM: Wednesday 24 April 2024 at The Henfield HallaHa