

FRIENDS OF STAMFORD HOSPITAL
Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting
Held on 20 April 2022 at 7.30pm

Apologies: Janet Walton
Jonathan Jones

Present: 22 Members
10 Committee members

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Dr Mike Dronfield, welcomed everyone to the meeting and read through the apologies.

2. Minutes of the 2019 Minutes and Matters Arising

There were no matters arising. The Minutes were therefore proposed as a true record by David Baxter and seconded by Delyth Dronfield.

3. Chairman's Report

The chair, Mike Dronfield, welcomed everyone to the first AGM since 2019. The Covid pandemic meant that we have not been able to hold an AGM but our Trustee meetings have carried on by Zoom meetings when we couldn't meet in person. We have tried to keep our members informed by our Newsletter, we publish two a year, and these are also on our website. We have not spent a lot on equipment in the last two years but have concentrated on smaller items to support the clinical staff. Covid numbers have been very high and there have been high staff absences but we have done what we could to support staff at Stamford Hospital, eg benches and parasols for the courtyard garden and a donation to The Love of Sewing Stamford to provide fabric for scrubs and masks. The Bill Packer lecture has not been held since 2019 but we hope to have one this year. Rob Hughes, ex-chair of NWAFT, has agreed to be our speaker. Representatives from the Friends feed back to the Stamford Hospital Development Advisory Committee and our speaker today, Kanchan Rege, will tell us more about the current plans for the site. Our thanks go to Trish Mason who has organised Book Fairs at Easton on the Hill when we couldn't sell books in outpatients.

4. Matron's Report

Caroline Wood thanked the membership for raising funds for Stamford Hospital. The lack of scrubs and masks was a huge problem during the pandemic and those provided from the Friends made a huge difference. The outdoor seating for staff was appreciated as there was no social distancing area for staff during their breaks. Covid is still out there and has had a huge impact on staff shortages through illness, retirement and stress. However, the staff love working at Stamford and feel they are treated very well – the patients are patient!

5. Treasurer's Report

Douglas Matthew (DM) reported that the financial report had been published on our website. DM gave an overview of Receipts, Payments and Charitable payments. Bank balance as at 31 December 2021 was £21,748 an increase of £4297 over the previous year. This is a good position going forward. DM gave his thanks to Ian Graham who has audited our accounts for some years, sadly this will be the last year.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by: Viv Mitchell, Seconded by: Trish Mason

6. Election of Trustees

Margaret Anderson has decided to stand down from the committee. MD thanked Margaret for her support to the Friends committee over many years.

The following committee members agreed to stand for re-election:

Michael Dronfield
Viv Mitchell
Paul Eastwood
Marion Pitt

Douglas Matthew
Trish Mason
Carrie Armitage
Eric Gibbon

Kay Hircock
David Baxter
Jonathan Jones

Proposed: Gill Langley

Seconded: David Lankester

Dr Anne Banner, a new committee member, was Proposed Paul Eastwood, Seconded David Baxter.

All were duly elected for a three year term.

7. Any Other Business

None

8. Speaker

Dr Kanchan Rege, Haematologist and Clinical Director for the Trust

Dr Rege gave a very informative presentation regarding how North West Anglia Foundation Trust functions and the effect of working alongside Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. She also highlighted the difficulties of working in the pandemic. The trust has 1000 beds, including 130 covid beds, 7200 staff and 400 volunteers. Funding is being sought for a new build at Hinchingsbrooke and Emergency Care Centre and Urgent Treatment Centre at Peterborough. Stamford Hospital and been kept as a "Green Site", ie free from Covid. The clinics have continued to run, the Minor Injuries Unit reopened in October 2021 but in the Trust overall there has been a 6% absence of staff and a backlog of bed space.

The use of technology has been key to keeping in touch with patients and avoiding face to face contact. KR outlined the three year strategy for Stamford to promote employment, the sale of the redundant area, service developments with social partners, more diagnostic services and increased outpatient services. It is hoped a home for the hospital museum will be found and she informed us that Philip Fearn, Charity Project Manager, was working with all the charitable areas within the Trust. The Charity Ambassador for the Trust is Craig Revell Horwood. A well being garden for staff is currently under construction. She also stated that the Breast Screening service will be coming back to Stamford.

Following some interesting questions and discussions, a vote of thanks was given by Douglas Matthew. He thanked Dr Rege for giving her time and providing such an in depth and interesting insight into the future of the Trust in general and Stamford Hospital in particular.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm