

FRIENDS OF STAMFORD HOSPITAL
Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting
Held on 20 April 2023 at 7.30pm

Apologies: Anne Spinoza Viv Mitchell Dave Baxter
Jonathan Jones Mike Dronfield
Harish Bisnauthsingh

Present: 7 Members 8 Committee members

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Kay Hircock, welcomed everyone to the meeting and read through the apologies.

2. Minutes of the 2022 Minutes and Matters Arising

There were no matters arising. The Minutes were therefore proposed as a true record by Fiona Ruddick and seconded by Trish Mason.

3. Chairman's Report

KH welcomed everyone to the meeting. The committee has met four times since the last AGM. We also held the Bill Packer lecture with the speaker being the ex-Chair of the Hospitals Trust, Rob Hughes. Rob gave an interesting insight into the differences and similarities between the Health and Commercial sectors. We have spent more funds this year on higher price items and feel confident the future of Stamford Hospital is assured. The Mercury kindly published an article about the work of the Friends and a plea for new committee members. Sadly, no-one came forward. We currently have five vacancies on the committee, and it would be good to have some younger members or those with specific skills such as social media management or fundraising. We will continue to look! Thanks go to Trish Mason for her continued work on book sales, both at the hospital and at Easton on the Hill village hall events.

Membership of the Friends is fairly static but not as active. Attendance at the Lecture and AGM are dwindling, which is worrying. The demographic is getting older and younger people do not seem to have the commitment or time.

The Museum group is still very active and Dave Baxter is very involved in the preservation of documents and artefacts. A permanent home for the museum is yet to be found. The hospital will be 200 years old in 2028.

The last meeting of the Stamford Hospital Development committee was held earlier in 2023, but no great changes were indicated at that time.

4. Matron's Report

Caroline Wood provided a written report for the meeting. She thanked the membership for raising funds for Stamford Hospital. Unrestricted visiting continues and mask wearing is no longer mandatory.

Department Update:

Greenwood: Working at full capacity and completing weekend lists to reduce waiting lists.

John Van Geest: New Ward Manager started – Chloe Jamieson. Very experienced and driven, to move JVG into an even more supportive unit for patients leaving PCH

Minor Injuries: Closed during industrial action last week but fully operational again now.

Outpatients: Additional room being created to allow Eye surgeons to complete eye injection service on site. Not operational yet

Pain Management: Group sessions continue and will start in the new education centre from July.

Phlebotomy: Service continues five days a week. Running at higher capacity than pre covid (approx. 250 - 300 patients per day)

Outpatient Therapies: Continues with mix of face to face and virtual appointments

Diagnostic Imaging: Continues but with reduced capacity at times due to staff absence and full utilisation of MRI scanners at PCH

Developments:

Old Hospital Sale: Preferred bidder selected and sale process continues

Museum: Volunteers have been in to help archive the old ledgers – THANK YOU

Project (needing volunteers please!) to create a ‘Stamford Hospital through the ages’ mural for the main corridor.

Staff Hub: Project started and architects have been selected to start design work

Greenwood /Dronfield RACC Panel reparation: Building will not be repaired – but will be monitored closely.

Government funding will be used to provide a new treatment centre – plans being considered currently

Nursing Home / Meeting Hall: Demolished and new Education Centre been erected next to the main entrance building

Funding Requests: I would like to thank the committee on behalf of the hospital for their generosity in providing funds for a significant number of high value items recently. The departments are working through getting them purchased and will update the committee when in situ. Many thanks from all of us.

5. Treasurer’s Report

Douglas Matthew (DM) thanked Justin Wilkinson for auditing the accounts. DM gave an overview of Receipts, Payments and Charitable payments. Bank balance as at 31 December 2022 was £26,072 an increase of £4297 over the previous year. This is a good position going forward. There were no questions from the floor.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by: Jim Mason, Seconded by: Marion Pitt

6. Election of Trustees

Mike Lumb, recently retired Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, was co-opted to the committee in February 2023. Fiona Ruddick agreed to stand for re-election.

Proposed: Trish Mason **Seconded:** Dave Baxter

7. Any Other Business

None

8. Speaker

Unfortunately, our main speaker, Kerry Gardner, did not appear. We therefore heard from the Hospitals Charity Project Manager, Philip Fearn, on his role and the complicated issues charity groups pose! Over the three hospital sites, there are 65 different charitable funds. Philip has only been in post for approximately a year and is proving a useful resource.

Mike Lumb joined the Trust in 1996 and retired 20 months ago. He first came to Stamford in 1998 for antenatal clinics. Mike spoke about the use of IT and the difficulties of systems not talking to one another causing duplication of work, missing records and unnecessary work for staff. During lockdown he introduced phone calls to patients to ensure all their documents and information were up to date, often meaning they did not have to travel in to the hospital for clinics. There were many questions for Mike from the floor, proving that IT can be interesting and extremely useful when systems are joined up and working effectively.

The Chair thanked the speakers and the attending members for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm