



The Friends of the Princess Royal University Hospital
(Farnborough, Kent)

Charity Commission Registered No 231071

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, June 4th
2024 at 7:30pm in the Education Centre at the PRUH.**

1. Welcome

Peter introduced the committee, and welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Angela Helleur, the Site Chief Executive (for the PRUH and South Sites) and Nicki Greenwood the Site Financial Director.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Pam Thomas, Ken Evans (friends of Orpington Hospital) Hannah Wiloughby (Kings Charity), Lynn Wheeler, Edward Charley, Helen Roberts, Tim Mercer, Sarah Spencer Adams, Marilyn Collins, Sheila Finn and Clare Allen.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on June 6th^h2023

The minutes were sent to all members. Diane Perry proposed and Bernard Jayasundera seconded that the minutes be approved and everyone agreed.

4. Matters Arising

Mr John Wilkins asked about the second MRI scanner. It was confirmed that this had now been installed. He also asked as to whether the hospital was doing anything to request that people do not use helium, in balloons etc, as it was needed in MRI scanners for the magnets.

5. Chairman's Annual Report

Peter's report had been circulated to Trustees and was available at the meeting, and would be on the Friends of the PRUH Website. Peter highlighted at the meeting the challenges the Trustees were facing in the year ahead. This would become clear later on the agenda, with in items dealing with changes of Trustees. He spoke about our need to build new relationships and he thanked our new CEO and Finance director for their time and commitment to the Friends. Mary Stirling and Angela Wilkins both suggested that putting leaflets in areas of the hospital and Dr surgeries etc promoting the Friends may encourage more support for the Friends of the PRUH both financial and practical.

6. Update on the Hospital from Angela Helleur Site Chief Executive for, the PRUH and South Sites(Item 10 on the Agenda was brought forward so that the CEO and Finance Director could leave the meeting,)

Angela Helleur began by saying she came to the PRUH on secondment for 3 weeks and knew from that, that she wanted to be at the PRUH, and was delighted to get the post of CEO. She has been in the NHS for 42 years. She said they were working as a team with Bromley Partnership and thanked the work of the Friends for their support for the hospital and their work helping to promote the wellbeing of staff. The developments in the hospital have been the new MRI scanner, and the new Respiratory Ward (a special unit which has been opened for a month). The Thyroid/Endoscopy unit is being built at the back of the hospital, and is set to open May/June 2025. It will be for the South East area. The ED is still extremely busy and they are working to improve the flow of patients but there is still a discharge /care home difficulty. The new Appointments/records system EPIC is up and running and although has had problems while everybody went live on the new system it is universal across the Kings and Guys and St Thomas and is safer for checks etc being done digitally and once a person has had an appointment on the system they can see their letters and details.

Angela did touch on the critical incident across many London hospitals including the PRUH, as the Blood Test Company supporting our hospitals had been hacked.

Financially the hospital is under a lot of pressure as Kings as a whole has not been able to keep within the budgets, this is partly due to the PFI increases and energy bills etc but they are working to increase efficiencies and work with all the South East hospitals to provide the best care possible.

Angela was asked about the shop which has been closed for over a year due in part to a flood, and was run by SPAR. Angela said it was now back within the hospitals jurisdiction and the plan is to reopen the shop but hopefully it will be bigger and supply more items.

Angela Wilkins also suggested that the car park should be run on getting a ticket on entry and paying on exit. This would mean that people would not be worrying about rushing to their cars to pay more money, or putting in a lot more than they need, also an added stress at difficult times. Angela said she would speak to the site manager to see if could be done.

Angela and Nicki were thanked for their time and input to the AGM.

7. Accounts and Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st March 2024.

Treasurer's report

Sets of our annual accounts have been distributed around the room and are also available on our website.

We have had a stable year again financially and although it looks as though our income has halved since last year, about the same proportion of last year's income was from two one off legacies. Donations from our members and grateful members of the public are still our main source of income.

We have taken advantage of the increase in interest rates by moving our deposit accounts into those paying a higher level of interest but we won't see the benefit of that until the year ending 31 March 2025.

We are still depleted in numbers on our committee although we have benefited from the help of some new volunteers to help man our fundraising stalls. We are currently looking for a secretary and treasurer as I am standing down next year.

We have been pleased to be able to spend a much larger proportion of our funds this year and especially from our restricted funds. We are about to use the funds donated in memory of the husband of a member of staff here to furnish the new patients' lounge on Medical 1. This and other grants made to the hospital are all itemised in the accounts.

We are starting the new financial year by supporting a project to enhance the décor of the Oasis Birth Unit, making it more welcoming and less foreboding for mothers to be.

The total funds of the charity at the yearend were £126,674.

I would like to thank Paul Denby our independent examiner for his assistance and advice and I am happy to take any questions.

Sally Panton

The Accounts

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Brenda Parsons, seconded by Mr Johnstone Brown and accepted by all those present.

8. To Elect A Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary

Peter Harris was elected Chairman proposed by Sally Panton and seconded by Wendy Reeves

Wendy Reeves has after many years' service decided to step down as Vice Chair, and Peter thanked her for her hard work. Bernard Jayasundera had agreed to become Vice Chair.

Treasurer Sally Panton had informed the Trustees Committee that this would be her final year as Treasurer and Trustee, again we are very grateful for all that she has done and is doing for the Friends of the PRUH Proposed by Peter Harris and seconded by Mary Stirling

Diane Perry is taking on the role of Membership Secretary Proposed by Bernard Jayasundera Seconded By Leigh Bozdan

Pam Thomas has resigned as Secretary and Trustee and we thank her for all that she has done for the Friends of the PRUH. Pam has very kindly agreed to prepare the agendas and act as minute secretary at our regular meetings, for which we are very thankful. We continue to look for a new secretary.

9. To Elect the Trustees

There were no new Trustees and Pam Thomas has resigned

Existing Trustees were re-elected on bloc by everyone present.

10. To Elect an Independent Examiner to the Accounts.

Mr Paul Denby who has acted as the Friends of the PRUH Independent Examiner of the Accounts has stepped down from his role from this AGM. We Thank him for all his support and wish him well.

As of this meeting we have not yet appointed an Independent examiner. We will try and recruit a new examiner in the next 12 months.

11. Any Other Business

Mary Stirling suggested we offer to do a talk to the U3A, in Bromley, there are currently 1100 members. Angela Wilkins also suggested that we approach other organisations, such as the Womens Institute.

Angela Wilkins asked how many members the Friends of the PRUH had. Currently there are 450 members.

It was also suggested that we put our leaflets in Dr surgeries, the Hospital canteen and on the boards at Tesco and Sainsburys etc. Leigh Bozdan did say we have a leaflet on the Sainsburys at Locksbottom.

Our Charity Boxes are at Costa and The Hospital canteen but as cash disappears the income is dwindling.

Mr Johnstone Brown did thank the Committee for their hard work, and noted how smoothly things appear to be run.

12. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8:30pm. Followed by a drink and nibbles.