

# The League of Friends of the Queen Victoria Hospital

## Minutes of the Adjourned 71st Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 20 September 2021 at the Surgeons' Mess, Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead

### Present:

St John Brown, Chairman (SJB)  
Alexandra Durrant, Honorary Treasurer (AD)  
Linda Skinner, Honorary Secretary and Registrar (LVS)  
Bob Marchant  
Judy Busby  
Andrew Robertson  
Brian Rugg  
Sue Wade  
Pat and Vic Hopkins  
Richard Dunstan  
Countess of Limerick, CBE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Action

#### 1 Apologies for Absence

Received from Chris Rae and 3 members.

#### 2 Minutes of Previous meeting

The Chairman reported that the meeting held on 6 September had not been quorate and therefore this meeting was held formally to conduct the business carried out at the earlier meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were available on the QVH Support Us page and were distributed to those present.

Richard Dunstan (RD) noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2019 showed the meeting had been held at the Meridian Hall when in fact it had been held in the Education Centre at QVH.

#### 3 Election of Trustees

3.1 The following Trustees were due to retire but are eligible for re-election:

Alexandra Durrant  
Linda Skinner

The re-appointment of the retiring Trustees was proposed by SJB and seconded by RD.

#### 4 Election of Officers

4.1 The following Officers were required to retire but are eligible for re-election:

Chairman	St John Brown
Treasurer	Alexandra Durrant
Honorary Secretary and Registrar	Linda Skinner

The re-appointment of the Officers was agreed by all those present.

#### 5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report had been circulated to the members. He reported that the Trustees proposed that the Constitution of the League be amended to allow for attendance at meetings by electronic means in accordance with more relevant communication methods. It had been necessary to hold Trustee meetings via Zoom during the pandemic. There was no objection to this proposal.

The Chairman had previously proposed that the number of members constituting a quorum should be reduced from 20 to 12. He further proposed that this number be reduced to eight. Following discussion it was agreed that the number constituting a quorum should be ten. The changes to the Constitution would now be submitted to the Charities Commission as a permanent amendment.

LVS

**6 Honorary Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that expenditure during 2020 had been higher than it should have been due to the delayed invoicing by QVH for previous years' expenditure. She reported invoicing was now up to date.

During the year the stock market had dropped significantly and the value of the League's investments with M&G Charifund had reduced similarly. The Trustees had agreed not to sell units during this time. Charifund is a widely diversified fund, designed specifically for charities to protect their funds and the decision not to sell appeared to have been the right one. At the end of the year the League had approximately £360,000 in cash and investments and as at 31 July 2021 this had increased to approximately £445,000.

RD asked what the major source of income was for the League. AD responded that about £4,500 per quarter was received in income from investments and two legacies amounting to £500,000 were expected to be received by the League in the near future.

**7 Appointment of Independent Examiners**

AD reported that Richard Place Dobson had been Independent Examiners to the League for some years and it was proposed that they should be reappointed. This was agreed by all present.

**8 The future of QVH**

The Chairman summarised the presentation by Steve Jenkin at the previous meeting. He reported that the Trustees had considered their position in light of the merger and had decided that their responsibility was to the hospital, patients and staff of the QVH and would not be prepared to support initiatives for the wider Trust if the hospital merged with Worthing & Brighton. He also reported that the Trustees would consider supporting local services in primary care and therefore still supporting the population of East Grinstead and surrounding areas. This course of action was approved by all present.

SJB stated that the League did not actively fundraise now because of a conflict between the League and the QVH Charity. However, it was always happy to receive donations and legacies from members to allow it to continue its work in supporting the hospital, staff and patients of QVH.

**9 Any Other Business**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and hoped to see them at the next AGM.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm