



The Community Voice

MONITORING THE **NHS** IN
NW LONDON AND SW HERTS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

Thursday 6th June 2013 in the Post Graduate Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital

APOLOGIES:

Jacky Khara (*Chorleywood RA*), Elizabeth Beggs (*Eastcote RA*), David Potter (*Harefield Rebeat*), Pamela Grimwade (*Mountwood Patients Group*), Tony Ellis (*Northwood Live at Home Scheme*), Paul Espley (*Uxbridge & South Ruislip Labour Party*), Pat Bonehill, Barbara Porket, Nannette Spain (*Individual Members*)

1. MINUTES OF THE AGM 2012:

These were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

a. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman, Joan Davis, gave her report, starting with an overview of our main activities – monitoring NHS services, campaigning for improvements to NHS services, working towards shared aims with others, providing services for members and maintaining a vigorous organisation.

i. Monitoring NHS Services:

This was our prime task and it continued throughout the year.

- In 2012-13 we were routinely represented at Board Meetings held in public in North West London and South West Hertfordshire, at all levels of the NHS. This included NHS London and NHS North West London, which covered two of our local Primary Care Trusts, NHS Harrow and NHS Hillingdon, and we also attended meetings of NHS Hertfordshire, East & North Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust - which manages the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, North West London Hospitals NHS Trust - which includes Northwick Park Hospital, The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - which includes Mount Vernon Hospital, The Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust - which includes Watford General Hospital, and Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust. Meetings of Harrow, Hillingdon and Hertfordshire Valleys Clinical Commissioning Groups when held in public were also monitored.
- We were unable to attend meetings of Midlands and East SHA Cluster, strategically responsible for Hertfordshire's NHS services, including the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, due to the distances involved, but minutes of Board Meetings in public were monitored on internet.
- Reports from Board Meetings were available to all members on request and key points were presented at our monthly General Meetings, in our monthly mailings and on our website.
- We engaged in many activities within the above NHS organisations; participating within their internal committees and reference groups; meeting informally with their staff at all levels; and looking to them for guest speakers at our monthly meetings, to inform and update our members.

ii. Campaigning:

Despite much campaigning effort, all the issues below will be carried forward into 2013 -14:

- We continued to oppose the NHS funding formula robustly.
- We continued to support the Royal Brompton Hospital's bid to retain its Paediatric Surgery services.
- We continued to support the campaign to reinstate the Admiral Nursing Service in Harrow.
- Our protests concerning the poor provision for mental health services continued, with limited success.

- We were vigorously involved in seeking a current use for the Northwood and Pinner Community Hospital site.
- Our protest about the £15m debt incurred by Hillingdon Primary Care Trust and inherited by Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group was a major new issue.
- Another new issue was our concern at the poor provision for high dependency children in North West London hospitals.
- In Hertfordshire we embarked on campaigning for stroke services to match those already provided in London.
- We raised concerns about the poor condition of the buildings in Hillingdon Hospital and Mount Vernon Hospital, with some initial success but more still needs to be done

iii. Our services for members: These included our monthly meetings, monthly mailings, and our website.

- We held ten General Meetings, enabling members to hear and engage in debate with influential guest speakers from the NHS, covering a wide range of topics.
- Similarly, we issued ten mailings, each with the minutes of the previous meeting, the agenda for the next meeting and a news-sheet with items of interest.
- Our website flourished. We were greatly indebted to our Vice Chairman, Donald Edwards, for providing us with photographs and numerous videos for the website:

www.communityvoicehealth.org.uk

iv. Working with others:

- We were an organisation member in our three local LINKs - Harrow, Hertfordshire and Hillingdon
- We liaised with local Councillors and Members of Parliament on matters of concern and enjoyed their support.
- We had formal and informal contacts with all our local NHS bodies

v. Membership:

During the year we were pleased to welcome into membership Vine Lane Residents' Association, Warren Park Residents' Association and a number of individual members, but we also lost some members for a reasons beyond our control. We ended our new financial year on 31st March with 42 Organisation Members and 51 Individual Members.

vi. Sponsorship:

We continued to enjoy the use of the Mount Vernon Post Graduate Centre for our meetings, at no cost, but we had no other sponsorship during the year, which enhanced our independence.

vii. Member volunteers:

The Chairman then thanked the many members who had enabled The Community Voice to function smoothly during the year:

- Firstly all the members of our Executive team, who had given unfailing support to all our work.
- Special thanks were noted for the work of our Hon. Secretary, Margaret Ross and our Hon. Treasurer, Jon Spain, who contributed so greatly to our organisation and also to Paul Samet and Mervyn Stone who were leaving the Executive after many years of service.
- Members who had worked quietly in the background were then acknowledged and thanked for their work – Jean Dixon who had represented us at meetings as far away as Hertford and Stevenage until poor health made that impossible; a large group of members who represented us at other NHS Board Meetings - David Hall, Mike Gordon, Neville Hughes, Dianne Passmore, Martin Plummer, and David Potter; also Elizabeth Beggs, who routinely helped with duplication of our monthly mailings.
- All these and many others had played their part in helping The Community Voice to enjoy a very successful year.

Questions were invited on the Chairman's report, but none were received. Adoption of her report was then proposed by the Chairman, which was seconded by Graham Bartram, and agreed unanimously.

b. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Community Voice 2012-2013 annual income & expenditure account, together with statement of assets, were provided for members. Full financial records were available for inspection on request.

The Hon. Treasurer, Jon Spain, presented the Annual Accounts and his report:

- He was grateful to Robin Willsmore for carrying out the independent examination of the accounts. He noted that our organisation is neither large nor a charity, so we can be reasonably flexible in our procedures.
- He reported that over the last year, we covered our costs, but unless new members are attracted and those we already have are retained that will cease to be the case.

Adoption of the Hon. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2012-2013 was proposed by Jon Spain, seconded by Janet Baddeley, and accepted without dissent.

4. THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2013-14:

Nominations had been received for all Executive roles but the election was uncontested and the following members were therefore deemed elected:

Chairman	Joan Davis
Vice Chairman	James Kincaid
Vice Chairman	Donald Edwards
Hon. Secretary	Margaret Ross
Hon. Treasurer	Jon Spain
Publicity Officer	Graham Bartram
Executive Members	Janet Baddeley / Tony Ellis / Ginny Nevill / Nannette Spain / and Jenny Stephany

5. Any Other Business:

There was no other business, but the Chairman noted the importance of continued recruitment, with our members as our chief ambassadors. She also urged members to volunteer to assist in the work of the Community Voice, to ensure that it remains a vigorous and effective organisation,

The meeting was closed at 9.45pm.

Signed:

Date

The next Community Voice Annual General Meeting will be in the period April 2014 to June 2014