

MINUTES OF ALICE HOUSE HOSPICE’S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 03 DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.00 P.M. IN ALICE HOUSE HOSPICE, ALICE HOUSE, WELLS AVENUE, HARTLEPOOL, TS24 9DA

PRESENT

Trustees	Members	Staff
Ainslie, Jim Bowes, Peter Druce, James Dunkerley, Clair Jones, Lorna Priestman, Ray Regan, Joanne		Britten, Sandra Haggan, Nicola

1.0 APOLOGIES

These were received from:

Trustees	Members	Staff
Brown, Angela Jackson-Smith, Vikki Shotton, Clive	Charlton, Keith Newbury, George Niland, Honor Rumney, Kay Wrenn, Margaret	

2.0 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (30 NOVEMBER 2023)

The minutes were **ACCEPTED** and **SIGNED** as a true record.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chief Executive Operational reported that there were no other matters arising.

4.0 REAPPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

4.1 Ray Priestman

The following Director stood forward for reappointment:

- Ray Priestman

RESOLUTION: The reappointment of Ray Priestman as a Director was **APPROVED**.

4.2 **Lorna Jones**

The following Director stood forward for reappointment:

- Lorna Jones

RESOLUTION: The reappointment of Lorna Jones as a Director was **APPROVED**.

5.0 **REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OPERATIONAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE NON-OPERATIONAL**

5.1 **Challenges 2023/2024**

The Chief Executive Non-Operational reported on the following challenges faced at the start of 2023/24:

- 2023/2024 budget deficit of £171,978.
- Fundraising amid economic downturn and increased social deprivation.
- Loss of retail volunteers post-COVID and reduction in donated goods.
- Lottery decline in membership and associated administration costs.
- Increased competition for funding including sponsorship, trusts and grants.
- Long Term Care Unit unsustainable operating costs.
- Community Bereavement Service not funded.
- Preparing for Care Quality Commission Inspection.

5.2 **Achievements 2023/2024**

The Chief Executive Operational reported on the following achievements during 2023/24:

- **Funding**
 - Continuation funding for Emergency End of Life Beds.
 - Continuation funding for NHS Staff Wellbeing Services.
 - Funding for Community & Children's Bereavement Services.
 - Commissioned funding for 2 additional Stockton Beds.
 - Closure of Long Term Care Unit.
- **Financial Year-End**
 - Budget 2023/2024
 - Projected £171,978 deficit: actual £467,461 surplus before depreciation (£296,767 after depreciation).
 - Budget 2024/2025
 - Projected £267,117 deficit: currently forecasting £182,566 surplus before depreciation.
 - Pay Awards in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.
- **Fundraising/Community**
 - Increased engagement in business sector, new referrals / Hartlepool Business Forum etc.
 - Gradual upturn in fundraising events.

- Non-financial business support including funding for garden upgrade (£31,000), donated training, event resources, use of venues etc.
- New Patron (Abacus) sourced at Tall Ships event.
- Runner up at Hartlepool Business Awards – Best Charitable Business.
- Runner up LGBTQ Awards for Inclusion in the Workplace.
- Positive local media relations and support with Long Term Unit closure.
- Some of the new-in-post Trustees were identified through pre-existing business relationships.

5.3 **Commissioned Funding Achievements**

The Chief Executive Operational reported on the following strategic and collaborative working during 2023/24:

- Tees Valley beds historically funded between 17-20% depending on financial turnover.
- MPs/Government and Integrated Care Board (ICB) lobbying.
- Representation on ICB Task & Finish Groups.
- Achieved increased funding from 2024/2025 (25%).
- Year 1 of a 3 year investment programme towards increased funding from the ICB.

5.4 **Plans for 2024/2025**

The Chief Executive Non-Operational reported on the following plans for 2024/25:

- Year 2 of 3 - levelling up funding from ICB.
- Local and national petitioning for fairer funding from Government.
- Assisted Dying (Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill).
- Continued engagement and relationship building with MPs, Council Leaders, Business Leaders and other local networks.
- Continued funding for Emergency End of Life Beds.
- Funding/grants for Wellbeing Services.
- Funding/grants for Community & Children's Bereavement Services.
- Continue to explore potential uses for the former Long Term Care Unit.
- Identifying grant funding opportunities for Hospice at Home model and Virtual Wards.
- Pay award review following National Minimum Wage increase and NHS Pay Award of 5.5%.

5.5 **Care Quality Commission**

The Chief Executive Operational reported that the Hospice's most significant success during 2023/2024 was the achievement of a Good rating across the 5 key lines of enquiry, following an unannounced inspection by the Care Quality Commission on 03 & 04 October 2025.

The Chief Executive Operational and Chief Executive Non-Operational completed their presentation by stating that through all of the challenges during the last 2 years, the Hospice has continued to deliver high-quality care to patients and their families, which could not have been achieved without the passion, loyalty and enthusiasm of the Hospice's staff and volunteers.

6.0 **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the members in attendance at the meeting.

7.0 **ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS**

There was no other notified business.