

READING PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held as hybrid on Friday 3rd March 2023 at 18:45.

Present: 37 RPCSG members in person including 10 partners.
7 RPCSG members by Zoom
6 guests from other prostate cancer support groups.

Chairman Chris Addison introduced the meeting and welcomed all members and guests to the meeting. He started by saying that he is relinquishing his role as chairman and a replacement chairman is being sought.

1. Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Approval of the Minutes of AGM of 4th March 2022

The minutes of the AGM on 4th March 2022 were unanimously approved on the 21st March 2022 by those RPCSG members who attended the AGM.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes / Action Points from previous AGM.

No actions had been placed at the meeting of 4th March 2022 and there were no 'Matters Arising' from that meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Richard Joyes had provided the 2022 financial accounts that had been sent by email to all members before the AGM along with some explanatory notes.

Richard summarised that the bank balance at the end of 2022 was quite healthy having been supported during the year by some very welcome donations.

Before the AGM Richard had received one question by email and had answered that query. There were no queries or comments by the audience who were asked for their approval of the 2022 accounts by a show of hands in favour and hence the accounts were unanimously approved,

5. Chairman's Report.

The report by Chairman Chris Addison had previously been delivered by email to all members. He had received no comments on the report and none were raised by the audience.

Chris said that as of this AGM he is now relinquishing his role of chairman that he had held for four years and said that he had enjoyed and felt honoured to have held the position and expressed his admiration for the group.

Following is Chris's report as was distributed to the members on 27 February 2023:

READING PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY 3rd March 2023 via Zoom at 6:45 pm

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2022

Before I go into detail about the past year and the fact that I am stepping down from four years as your Chairman of RPCSG, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed the role and it has been such a privilege and honour to serve a group of people who seem to let nothing get in the way of their condition and hold nothing back in making no topic off limits. However, there is a need to find a new chairman of the group.

GROUP MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Covid pandemic affected us for a couple of months following the AGM of 2022, such we had to hold the meetings up to the April 2022 meeting by Zoom only. The regulations then relaxed and for the first time we held a hybrid meeting in May 2022. We took full account of precautions such as ventilation, personal distancing and sanitising. Apart from three social events we then held our group meetings as hybrids, enabling members from other support groups to participate on-line in the presentations. The first hybrid meeting had a few minor technical issues but I am pleased to say that these were quickly overcome and our hybrid meetings are now well organised and attended but with some minor technical issues still to resolve.

It has been widely reported in the national press that due to the pandemic many men who would otherwise have been diagnosed with prostate cancer have not had a GP consultation. A report has suggested that there could be 14,000 such undiagnosed cases. This is one of the reasons why we have put increased effort into advertising our group and spread awareness.

There was an improvement during the past 12 months in the number of new members joining the group, particularly over the past few months. In the year 2021 we had 10 new members and in 2022 we saw 17 new members. Further, the numbers seem to pick up during the year with 13 of the 17 new members joining in the second half of 2022. I would like to think that some of this increase has resulted from our advertising efforts.

AWARNESS AND ADVERTISING

During the past year we have increased our promotion and advertising of the group and we hope that our efforts contributed to the increase in new membership as mentioned above. We have revised our leaflet that is included in the pack that new prostate cancer patients receive from the hospital. We have also developed a laminated poster that is on display in many locations that have a public presence. Many thanks to Peter Dawe who has led this project and been very active in the creation and distribution of the posters. Thanks also to Andrew Gabriel for his contribution to this project and the rest of the committee who have also had input to their production.

We would like to know how patients become aware of the RPCSG and have been asking new members recently how they learned of our existence, so that we can concentrate of those routes. We may ask some existing members the same question so I hope that you will bear with us for asking the questions.

We held an Awareness session on the 2nd July 2022, in our favourite spot outside Marks & Spencer on Broad Street in Reading. The event was spectacularly successful with our extent of contact with members of the public being one of the best ever.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

DINNERS

We held our usual two social events during the past year, being the Summer Social in June 2022 and the Christmas social in December 2022. Both of these events were very enjoyable and successful, with the number of guests being 36 and 37 respectively. Both of these events had a quiz, raffle and live music provided by a group member, David Lowe, and a colleague. I thank Alex Miles for organising these events.

WALKS

During the last year we held a walk in each month with the exception of December, as this would have occurred very close to Christmas.

Many thanks to Richard Brown for a very successful programme of interesting and enjoyable walks during the year.

COFFEE MORNINGS

We were able to hold coffee mornings throughout the past year, whilst observing the Covid regulations that were in force at the times. These coffee mornings are ideal forums to chat with other members, whether about prostate cancer or just general socialising. They were held in pubs and were most enjoyable. Thanks to Richard Brown and Andrew Gabriel for their efforts in arranging the coffee mornings.

COMMITTEE

The RPCSG committee consists of 11 people who generally meet monthly to plan and manage the RPCSG events. I thank Steve Parkinson for being so diligent in preparing and taking Minutes of meetings. He also continues to edit Pharos.

As well as committee members mentioned throughout this report, my thanks go to Steve Allen for his valuable knowledge and input to meetings (plus hosting committee meetings) and to our founder Beverley Skelton for arranging many speakers for our monthly group meetings.

Thanks to Antony Steven for taking time out from his busy work schedule to contribute to committee meetings.

Thanks also go to Chris Webb who manages the website and group data, and to Steve Smyth for his photographic skills at meetings both indoors and outdoors. Along with Richard Brown they have stepped away from the committee but continue in their roles.

Thank you to Richard Joyes, our treasurer, for his management of our finances.

Finally a thank you to those of the group who have volunteered to help on the rota for serving refreshments at monthly meetings.

If you would like to join the committee, please speak to a committee member or contact chairman@rpcsg.org.uk

I wish you well during 2023.

Chris Addison

RPCSG Chairman 2019-2023

There were no comments upon the chairman's report and Chris was thanked for the great contribution that his holding of the role has made to the group.

6. Election of Committee Members.

Six committee members were due to be re-elected to continue their term on the committee for a further 12 months. These members are:

Steve Allen – Awareness Officer

Andrew Gabriel – New members Greeter

Richard Joyes – Treasurer

Alex Miles – Social Secretary and Chief Fire Officer

Steve Parkinson – Secretary and acting Editor

Chris Webb – Web Master

Members voted by a show of hands that were in favour of the election of the above six members and in the absence of any queries the members were thus unanimously elected.

7. Any Other Business.

No queries or comments were raised.

8. Date of next AGM.

The proposed date of the next AGM is the 1st March 2024.

The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

At the conclusion of the group meeting following the AGM, the entire audience thanked Chris Addison for his work as chairman. A member spoke for everyone in thanking Chris for his diligent and professional manner as chairman and for his friendly approach, he will be greatly missed.