

READING PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 6th March 2020 at 19:00 hours in St Andrew's Church Hall, Craven Road, Reading.

Present: 36 members (of whom 1 was new to the group), one guest and 6 wives/partners.

Chairman Chris Addison introduced the meeting and welcomed all members to the meeting, in particular the new member. He gave some brief instructions as to the Fire Safety procedure.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Six apologies for absence had been received.

2. Approval of the Minutes of AGM of 1st March 2019

The minutes had been distributed to all members before the meeting. No issues were raised and so the minutes were deemed to be approved.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes / Action Points.

No actions had been placed at the meeting of 1st March 2019 and there were no 'Matters Arising'.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Roger Bennett said that the 2019 accounts had previously been distributed to all members along with some explanatory notes and that he had received no queries concerning the accounts.

Roger drew attention to a few points relevant to the accounts:

The opening and closing bank balances were £2933 and £2913 respectively and this is a very comfortable financial position for the group. We have unavoidable expenses for such items as the rental of the hall, awareness events and related expenses, and we are fortunate in that these costs were approximately balanced by incomes from the donations for refreshments, raffle income and other donations received.

The committee was very grateful for the donations received from members during 2019, a total of £1010 and also grateful to all members for their donations for refreshments.

We made a donation to Prostate Cancer UK as we support this charity and have benefitted by receiving much of their documentation free of charge,

No questions arose concerning Roger's report, and the 2019 accounts and Roger's report were approved by the majority of the membership by a show of hands in favour.

5. Chairman's Report.

Chairman Chris Addison said that he was very proud of the success of our group meetings and the holding of awareness events.

Chris gave some interesting statistics:

We had 29 new members in 2019, the figure for 2018 was 26 new members. Attendance at group meetings increased in 2019 compared with 2018. Excluding the social events but including partners the number of people attending group meetings in 2018 was 407 rising to 459 in 2019, which is a satisfying increase of more than 12% in attendance.

We had three awareness events in 2019, consisting of two in Reading and one at Newbury Classic Car show in August. The rate of contact with the public at these events was very good. Thank you to Steve Allen for his input to awareness events and to all those who volunteered to help at the events.

During 2019 regular monthly walks were established. These have been very popular not only as a social event but also opportunities for gaining information and exchange of experiences. Many thanks to Richard Brown for arranging the walks and for the recently establishing coffee mornings. The first of these was held in February and was very popular with 16 people attending.

We held two 'Question & Answer' sessions during 2019 at which Beverley and Tessa Martin expertly answered questions from members. These sessions are ideal for obtaining information that would otherwise need a consultation. Thanks also to Beverley for her continued arranging of guest speakers for group meetings.

Chris reminded members that a list of all of the guest speakers that we have ever had is available in our web site in the 'Library' tab and members can locate the newsletter that contains a report of each talk.

Chris and Andrew Gabriel attended the Tackle AGM in Birmingham that was a most interesting and useful occasion.

6. Election of Committee Members.

Two committee members were proposed for election to the committee:

Andrew Gabriel who joined the committee as a co-opted member during 2019 and now holds the role of 'Meeter and Greeter' whose task is to be the first point of contact for new members at group meetings.

Christopher Webb finished a four year term of office in March 2019 and has since been a co-opted committee member carrying out the computer related work and maintaining our web site, and now wishes to formally rejoin the committee.

Both of the above were elected in turn by a majority show of hands in favour,

7. Extension of Chairman's tenure

Treasurer Roger Bennett explained that the Constitution provides for three year terms in office with a further optional year. Chris Addison finished his four years as a committee member in March 2020. On being appointed Chairman at the AGM of 2019 Chris said that he was willing to serve a Chairmanship term of three years but for this purpose his membership term would need to be exceptionally extended by an additional two years. The committee is fully supportive of this extension.

Peter Giles expressed his support for this exceptional extension to Chris Addison's tenure as Chairman.

On a vote by the showing of hands, the majority of the members present was in favour, hence approving the Chairman's extension of tenure in office for a further two years.

Chris Addison then thanked all the members for their vote, and expressed that he is looking forward to continuing his role as Chairman.

8. Any Other Business.

Chris Addison made some points:

- Graham Cook has relinquished his role as Social Secretary and Alex Miles has kindly taken on this role. Chris thanked Graham for his work done in this role over several years.
- There is an Awareness event in the Broad Street Mall on Saturday 21st March and we will appreciate volunteers to help at this stand.
- Thanks to Richard and Elizabeth Joyes for organising a rota that ensures that we have sufficient helpers to serve refreshments at group meetings. We would appreciate more people to help with his task, with volunteers being expected to carry out no more than two sessions per year.

No further 'Other Business' items were raised.

9. Date of next AGM.

The proposed date of the next AGM is the 5th March 2021.

The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting at 7:21 p.m..

Chairman.....

Date