

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Lawrence Home Nursing Team

Wednesday 12th May 2010, 7.30pm, Chipping Norton Town Hall

1. Welcome by the Chairman Jonathan Moore

2. To receive Apologies for absence

Julia Ayres, Ronald Speirs, Jill Mavin, Margaret Dewey, Maggie Wastson.

3. To receive the Minutes of the AGM of May 2009

Item 7 of the Minutes should refer to an independent review of the accounts carried out by accountant Gary Brewerton, not an audit.

4. To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Jonathan Moore (Chairman)

' I would like to very warmly welcome you to the 2010 AGM of the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. Last year we marked our first 10 years and now are beginning to develop a sense of establishment. Twice this year I have had to break the devastating news to a patient that they had a terminal diagnosis. Both patients' husbands had been nursed by the Lawrence Home Nursing Team and the reaction of each was exactly the same; both looked at me with real confidence and said "I know the Lawrence Home Nursing Team will be there for me and give me the very best care!" It is a real tribute to the whole team that we have earned this respect and trust from our patients

I was very heartened by another surprise recently. A letter was drawn to my attention in "Cotswold Life" by the grateful son of a patient whom we had nursed in December called Darren Davis. He wrote extremely movingly about the holistic care he and the family had received from us, but beyond this is planning a sponsored bike ride on our behalf. I understand that he has also written an article in the "Banbury Guardian" too. It is such an encouragement to find users of our service so pleased that they are inspired to support and promote us so actively. It is wonderful when families of patients become enthusiastically involved which ultimately helps us to continue to expand our work still further.

This year there has been a real push countywide to improve end of life care. I am delighted that we have Val Stangoe from the PCT who will be talking to us later about the "Oxfordshire End of Life Plan" which aims to implement national aspirations. It is well recognised that more patients die in hospital than is necessary, and often this is because arrangements cannot be made quickly enough, or no service is in place, to enable patients to receive the care they need at home. It is also appropriate and better if terminal care can be carried out by specialist teams away from acute hospitals as the needs of the dying patient are usually very different to that of general hospital care.

In Chipping Norton we are well ahead of even the much larger towns and within Oxfordshire we are the longest established and most developed service of our kind. Commissioners in Banbury are looking to Jenny and I to give support in setting up a similar service in Banbury to enable early terminal care discharge from hospital to home or a more suitable community setting. Innovative professionals in Witney are looking to set up a charitable organisation very similar to the Lawrence Home Nursing Team, for which we are very keen to give our full support.

As I have said in previous speeches, the Lawrence Home Nursing Team is seen as the Gold Standard for community centred terminal care. In recognition of this and with the implementation of the "End of Life Plan" the PCT have for the first time this year given us funding to the tune of £10,000. We are grateful for this, but are very clear that we remain an entirely independent organisation with the ability to use the funds raised entirely at our own discretion and that this funding does not mean we are under direct NHS autonomy. Some of our funds have to be used on administration, insurance and other organisational areas other than direct patient care. The trustees have decided to use this PCT funding to cover any non clinical areas so that the maximum amount of funds raised by donors can go directly into the nursing service.

Nationally the profile of community based terminal care has been considerably raised in recent years and the ability of patients to die at home, if they wish, is moving closer to a nationwide reality and expectation. The Lawrence Home Nursing Team is seen as a pioneering service and I am very committed to sharing and encouraging others to aspire to and achieve what we have done. I have already mentioned that there is considerable interest in getting a similar service established in Witney & this has our full support.

One of our patients introduced me to Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge (a place I spent a year while doing my GP training) and the Cambridgeshire PCT; who are trying to set up a community palliative care service integrated with the main hospital. I have accepted an invitation to talk to them in June about how the Lawrence Home Nursing Team was set up and the practicalities of how we operate. The key to our success remains the commitment of all our team in their different roles: From the nursing team, to our trustees, fundraisers and administrative specialists. With the unstinting support of our community we are able to work together to achieve a service that is now well recognised as a national aspiration.

I would, on behalf of the entire Lawrence Home Nursing Team, like to congratulate our Patron, David Cameron, on his appointment as Prime Minister last night. David agreed to succeed Ronnie Barker as our Patron without any hesitation and has been exceptionally supportive since. He has donated part of the proceeds of his biography to us and been involved in fundraising and increasing our profile. He has expressed his pride in our seeing the need for this service within our community; and taking the initiative to see that it happened. His speech in Downing Street last night made me feel that we reflect his vision for the future.

Thank you so much for coming tonight and we all appreciate your continued support'

5. To receive and adopt the Audited Accounts

The audited accounts and the notes were circulated. It has been a satisfactory year despite the tough financial climate. £10,000 has been received from the PCT. Robin Coates assured those present that donations are spent on nursing costs; administration costs are kept to a minimum.

The LHNT has raised £1.38 million to date.

The financial group meets regularly to review the LHNT's finances. It has not been easy to get favourable interest rates from the banks over the last 24 months.

The accounts were formally adopted. Proposed: Nikki Knott; Seconded: Lesley Stobart.

6. To consider the Budget for the year 2010-11

This item was included in under item 5.

7. To nominate an Auditor for the year 2010-11

Accountant Gary Brewerton was nominated to carry out the independent review of the accounts.

8. To receive a verbal report from the Nursing Co-ordinator, Jenny Nolan

Since the launch of the charity we have nursed 364 patients and made 2,333 visits covering 12,276 hours.

We have a strong, committed team of nurses meeting this need. My thanks to them for their continued hard work and flexibility.

We are well supported by our local District Nurses and GP's, by Katharine House and the Clinical Nurse Specialists.

Over the last 12 months we have nursed 33 patients. This is less than the two previous years.

The Department of Health have launched an 'End of Life Care Strategy' to enable choice for preferred place of care. In response to this the Dying Matters Coalition has been created, their mission is to support changing knowledge, attitudes and behaviour towards death, dying and bereavement and through this to make 'Living and Dying Well' the norm. This will involve a fundamental change in society in which dying, death and bereavement will be seen and accepted as the natural part of everybody's life cycle.

Most people express the preference for care at home. We have an important role to help this become reality.

I'll finish with a quote from a relative:

"The Memory of how carefully the nursing team cared for my beloved mother in her final days will remain with me and my two brothers forever.

You managed the horror of what was happening to us and nursed us all in the most wonderful way, becoming part of our close family with consummate skill, you dealt with and eased my mother's and our tears and fears. I feel sorry for any family going through this without you."

Jonathan Moore thanked Jenny and her team for all of their hard work; they are the focus of the charity and they do an amazing job.

9. To receive a verbal report from the Fund Raising Co-ordinator, Nikki Knott

'We have had a very quiet year but somehow the money still keeps coming in which makes my job much easier so please all of you keep up the good work.

We kick started the year with Barn Dance and much fun was had by all who attended thank you again to the Swaine family for organizing it.

My support group work away in the background and I would like to thank them all, as well as the Charlbury group who continue to hold events for us. Lots of shops have our collecting cans and Jane Cannon has taken over emptying them from the Blake's she is doing a fantastic job. Jenny managed a good collection in Chippy on Saturday despite the freezing weather!! Enstone Post office has held a couple of coffee mornings; thank you Will and Hazel. Thank you everyone too many to mention by name who help organize events.

The Christmas Cards sold very well and after all the snow I have decided to hold a photographic competition the winning entry will be printed as one of our cards this year.

Darren Davis is doing a charity Bike ride on May 16th in memory of his mother I have two articles about here it for you to read.

Sadly the Mayors ball had to be cancelled but they held a raffle for us. Jill Walker is holding a table top sale in the Town hall on 5th June. The Churchill Classic car Rally is June 11th and we are manning the gates.

Thank you all again and keep the money coming in!

10. To approve the appointment of officers for the following year:

- i. Chairman: Jonathan Moore.
Proposed: Nikki Knott; Seconded: Rosemary Williams
- ii. Treasurer: Robin Coates
Proposed: Mike Howes; Seconded Jonathan Moore
- iii. Fund Raising Co-ordinator: Nikki Knott
Proposed: Jonathan Moore; Seconded: Lesley Stobart
- iv. Secretary: Anna Jo Righton
Proposed: Terry Howes; Seconded: Nicholas Dewey

11. AOB

Nicholas Dewey asked about the possibility of extending the southern boundary of the LHNT to take in Burford. It was explained that Kate's Carers cover Burford and that the LHNT works with GP practice populations rather than geographical areas.

12. Date of next AGM

11th May, 2011 Chipping Norton Town Hall

13. Guest speaker - Valerie Stangoe from the PCT outlined the vision for palliative care.