

LIME TREE SURGERY PATIENTS' GROUP
Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting
held at Findon Village Hall on
Thursday 21st May 2009

WELCOME

The Chair, Lance Allen, welcomed everyone present to the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Lime Tree Surgery Patients' Group and said he appreciated their support.

The Chair stated that we are all complex biological machines which need servicing and repairs from time to time, which is why we need good quality local primary care, and we are lucky to have Lime Tree Surgery. We are proud as a Patients Group to be a part of what the Surgery is all about. One man who gave so much of his time and dedication to the Surgery and its patients was Dr Cameron who was taken from us through a fatal sporting accident last November. Most if not all present would have known Dr Cameron and the Chair asked for a few minutes quiet contemplation and reflection of a great man who was much loved and is sadly missed.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The acceptance of the minutes of the 18th AGM were proposed by Mr Leroy Bryan and seconded from the floor.

MATTERS ARISING

Nothing outstanding from the previous minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There are changes to your Committee this year. Three longstanding members have or are retiring. Thanks go to Geoff Hastings, Theo Wild and Margaret Christmas. We wish them all well and we are sure we will see them again. There are two new members, Margaret Bamford who, amongst other roles, is a non-executive director of the PCT, and Heidi Jones who has young children and will keep a special eye on childrens' medical issues, a significant section of the surgery's patients.

Patient Groups are changing. Numbers are growing and in West Sussex, out of 90 or so practices, half have a Patients Group of some form. Lime Tree Patients Group are working towards getting closer to patients at local level. The West Sussex PCT have started a steering group with the National Association for Patient Participation. Two patients groups have been invited to attend the PCT steering group, Hurstpierpoint and ourselves, which has given a high profile to Lime Tree and the patients group.

Previously mentioned is the fact that Lime Tree is a founder member of the Worthing Area Patients Group Forum. We have half-yearly meetings with other Patients Groups in the surrounding area and share information and discuss the various ways in which we can communicate and fund raise for our surgeries, which differs from group to group.

Lots of different initiatives are being formed at the moment. There is a Membership Scheme, LINKs Scheme, Personalised Health Budgets, Unique Care and Practice Based Commissioning. Hopefully the PCT will simplify matters and reduce confusion.

The Chair asked if anyone present had looked at the Surgery's website and

particularly, the patients group, as it is difficult to know if the correct information is being given if there is no feedback. No comments received.

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In closing the Chair's report, he wished to thank the dedicated Committee throughout 2008 and beyond - Carol Farrow (Secretary); Sybil Evans; Margaret Christmas; Geoff Hastings; Joyce Hemus; Wendy Pollard; Charlie Pratt; Glynis Thomas and Theo Wild, new members Margaret Bamford and Heidi Jones and to the Practice, Dr Mannings, Paula Russell and Gill Cotton.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Accounts for 2008 are in the usual format, audited by Derek Loader. Our grateful thanks to Derek. We have weathered the recession well, donations have been steady, book sales are very good and the proceeds from the Autumn Fayre were the best for 10 years. Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

We keep a tight rein on costs and the only main item of expenditure was a blood pressure monitor, which leaves £29,000 in the kitty. We had agreed to provide £18,000 to fund the Ophthalmology Unit. The PCT has failed to make a decision on the provision of clinical supervision. We wrote to John Wilderspin, the Chief Executive of the PCT in March and although it was hand delivered, it did not reach him so Margaret Bamford spoke to him again and he was also e-mailed hoping for some good news to report tonight. Apparently it seems the PCT are reviewing facilities over the whole of Worthing instead of just Lime Tree, so we are still awaiting PCT decision.

We are holding £3,300 as a reserve against unpaid VAT. The VAT rules for medical equipment bought by charities are unclear and are not specific for surgeries. The National Association for Patient Participation is looking into this subject and we will therefore wait for developments.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the accounts. As there were none, the adoption of the accounts was proposed by John Christmas and seconded from the floor.

The Chair stated that recent visitors to the surgery will have seen the new information screen in the main waiting area. It is much better than the previous screen and a special thanks go to Lyles who fitted the screen and all its cabling, with no fitting charge.

The Worthing Hospital CT Scanner Appeal was a favourite cause for Dr Cameron and it is proposed, with the consent of all present, to make a donation of £500 in Dr Cameron's memory.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chair announced that all current officers were willing to stand for another year. Margaret Christmas proposed the election of officers en bloc and the motion was seconded by Leroy Bryan.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Leroy Bryan felt that the doctors' talk at the AGM last year was a bit political and he believed that Tim Laughton would be happy to attend any future meetings. The Chair said that Mr Laughton's presence would be more appropriate at the Findon Valley Residents Association as he does not have a medical portfolio. Chair would however bear it in mind for 2010.

It was noted that the Surgery was back at Nightingales and it was very much appreciated.

Don Pollard asked if Tim Laughton would be able to assist with the VAT issue, as there seems a bit of difference of opinion. Could the other local Groups go through their MPs to fight at a national level. [Later: Chair attended the NAPP National Conference in Coventry on 6 June and raised the VAT issue.]

Leroy Bryan thanked all the Committee for doing an excellent job.

As there was no other business or questions, the Chair handed the meeting over to Dr Mannings and Dr Oliver Smith.