**NATIONAL DIGNITY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

1.00 p.m 21st October 2021

Via Zoom Meetings

Present:- Jan Burns MBE Trustee and Chair

Clare Copleston Trustee

Rekha Elaswarapu Trustee

Roisin Burton Trustee

Lesley Flatley Trustee

In Attendance: Jane Finnerty Treasurer

Liz Taylor Administrator

Two Dignity Champions

1/4/21 Apologies: Alan Clark MBE Trustee

2/4/21 Conflicts of Interest

* None were declared

3/4/21 Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2020

* The minutes of the 2020 AGM were accepted by the meeting
  + Proposed Rekha Elaswarapu Seconded Clare Copleston

4/4/21 Matters Arising

* There were no matters arising

5/4/21 Annual report

* Jan Burns MBE introduced the Annual Report, stating that it had been a very good year for the campaign despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.
* Support had continued to be received from partners and Jan Burns MBE specifically cited the close working relationship with Sue Howard our contact at CQC; the financial support that had been received from Spectrum Consortium, the close working relationship with Skills for Care.
* In addition Jan Burns MBE thanked;-
  + the Treasurer Jane Finnerty for her continued commitment to the Campaign and the hard work she puts in to keep the finances on track.
  + The Administrator Liz Taylor who worked across a number of streams, sending out postcards and badges, liaising with the Charity Commission, and developing products for the campaign.
  + The Trustees for their unstinting support, especially as they did not receive any financial recognition for what they did.
* Jan Burns MBE went on to say that although it had been a good year it was clear that we couldn’t rest on our laurels and the work in keeping Dignity on the agenda and the campaign going was as important as ever.
* Clare Copleston commented that she felt that the current Council worked very well as a team, and she looked forward to continuing the upward trajectory.
* Roisin Burton noted the progress that had been made in developing and maintaining links with key stakeholders over the year, which had given the campaign entry to new forums and provided a good base for future developments.

6/4/21 Accounts

* Jane Finnerty introduced the accounts, which were included in the Annual Report.
* She highlighted that there was a deficit for the current year, which had mainly occurred because of the provision of the postcards, and because we had been unable to hold a conference. Although it had been possible to gain some income from the AVIVA funding scheme this had not covered all the costs. It was therefore of vital importance that there was focus on income raising, be that through grant applications, charitable giving or fundraising through Dancing for Dignity and Dignity Action Day, in the coming year.
* The meeting recognised that the Charity sector as a whole was finding it difficult to maintain fundraising and recognised the need for Trustees to get more actively involved in seeking funding opportunities.
* Jan Burns MBE reminded the meeting that all on the Council, Trustees, Treasurer and Administrator were volunteers and that the largest single expense was that to maintain the website, which was the key communication channel with Champions and the sector in general.
* Jane Finnerty supported this by saying that expenses were kept to a minimum and is well controlled and remains associated with our key objectives.
* The Annual report and accounts were accepted by the meeting
  + Proposed Clare Copleston seconded Rekha Elaswarapu

7/4/21 Emergency Motion

* Roisin Burton raised an Emergency Motion to the meeting – previously circulated to all Trustees, relating to the Constitution. This related to Clause 12 [3] of the constitution as informed by Clause 3.
  + **(3) Number of charity trustees**
  + (a) There must be at least six charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee
  + (b) The maximum number of charity trustees is twelve. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.
  + **(12) Retirement of Trustees**
  + (3) A charity trustee who has served for two consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a third consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year.
  + the following amendment should be made to Clause 12 (3).
  + A charity trustee who has served for two consecutive terms may not be appointed for a third consecutive term, except where that retirement would result in the total number of Trustees falling below six. Where the total number of Trustees would be six or over with the retirement of a Trustee having served two consecutive terms, then the retiring Trustee may not be reappointed for a third consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year.
* The meeting agreed to allow the emergency motion to be put to the meeting.
  + Proposed Roisin Burton, seconded Jan Burns MBE.
* The motion was then debated.
  + Roisin introduced the motion stating that it had been difficult to recruit and retain Trustees for a number of reasons and under the current Constitution there would need to be a suspension of standing orders or a change in order for the Charity to continue to function and meet its charitable objectives. Additionally the fewer Trustees there were the greater the workload of those remaining, which could result in further retirements.
  + The meeting agreed that the amendment to Clause 12[3] made sense and the revised clause was accepted without dissent.
    - Proposed Roisin Burton, seconded Clare Copleston.

8/4/21 Appointment of Trustees

* Clare Copleston was re-appointed as Trustee for a second term
* Rekha Elaswarapu and Jan Burns MBE were re-appointed as Trustees for a third term under the provisions of the revised clause 12[3].
* The meeting noted the importance of seeking new Trustees in the coming year.

9/4/21 Appointment of Chair

* Having confirmed her willingness to continue as Chair for a further year, Jan Burns MBE was appointed Chair. Carried without dissent
* The meeting noted the need to appoint a Deputy Chair in the coming year.

10/4/21 Appointment of Treasurer

* Having confirmed her willingness to continue Jane Finnerty was appointed Treasurer.

11/4/21 Any Other Business

11/4/21/1 Jane Finnerty suggested that the Trustees consider the payment of an Honorarium to the Administrator in recognition of the level of support offered to the Council.

* + Proposed Clare Copleston seconded Roisin Burton. Carried without dissent.
* Liz Taylor expressed her thanks to the meeting, whilst stating that it wasn’t necessary.

11/4/21/2 Rekha Elaswaparu on behalf of the Trustees thanked Jan Burns MBE for all her hard work and excellent chairing of the Council.

12/4/21 Date of Annual General Meeting 2022

* To be held on Thursday 20th October 2022, time and venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 1.31p.m.