**Dignity in our hearts, minds and actions** 

**NATIONAL DIGNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the National Dignity Council**

**held at the offices of Skills for Care, Lynton House, Tavistock Square, London**

**on 16th November 2015.**

The start of the meeting was delayed due to travel disruption for a number of attendees. Additionally some members who had intended to attend were unable to due to the travel disruption. The meeting actually commenced at 12 noon.

**Present**: Jan Burns Chair

Liz Taylor Secretary

Gillian Moncaster North West Dignity Forum

Sharon Blackburn National Care Forum

Jane Finnerty Society of Later Life Advisors

Amanda Waring Independent Film Maker

**Apologies:** Jean Hardiman Smith National Pensioners Convention

Jacqui Morris British Geriatric Society

Frank Ursell Treasurer

Rekha Elaswaparu Independent Advisor

Becca Lawther Department of Health

Jill Fraser Kissing it Better [part meeting]

Carol Gibbons. McMillan Nurses [part meeting]

Tim Couchman Lincolnshire Dignity Forum

**Minutes of the Meeting held 17th November 2014**

Agreed as accurate by the meeting.

Proposed by Liz Taylor and seconded by Jane Finnerty

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Presentation of the Annual Report**

Jan introduced the Annual Report stating that we should to celebrate the number of champions, we currently had and particularly the increase in the number of those from health services. The discussions on the website Forum and Facebook are much more readily used, these days and are sparking some stimulating discussions. Recognising that not everyone was a member of both forums, steps were taken to ensure that issues were raised on both where appropriate.

Liz commented that we should note that the number of badges being worn was probably many more than those signed up as Champions.

Jan commented that she was aware that we were not managing the intergenerational aspects of our work as well as we had hoped, and this was an area where she hoped there would be further work in the forthcoming year.

Liz introduced the Honorary Secretary’s report and stated that it should be noted in addition that the role of the network coordinator had proved very effective, in terms of getting the newsletter out on a regular basis and establishing a link between the Council and the networks. Peter Seymour had certainly fulfilled this role very well.

In response to a question in relation to Twitter it was noted that Rekha was following this up.

The Annual Report was accepted by the meeting.

Proposed Gillian Moncaster and seconded by Amanda Waring.

**Financial Report**

The accounts had been included in the Annual Report and were presented in a form that met the potential requirements of the Charity Commission. In the absence of the Treasurer, Jan asked if there were any questions. None were raised.

It was noted that badge sales were providing a small but significant income, and Liz was thanked for her work on this element of the accounts.

The Accounts were accepted by the meeting.

Proposed Jane Finnerty and seconded Sharon Blackburn.

**Proposals for the forthcoming year**

Jan introduced a general discussion on this item.

Pass it On project

Idea going forward is around touching the public. This is still something that needs to be taken forward, it’s about reach. There was a discussion about how we might take this forward if we were unsuccessful in the bid to DoH. The idea of using the increased contact with hospitals might be away forward.

Dignity Awards

Jan queried whether it would be worth trying to establish some common criteria for the various awards around dignity that were being held throughout the country. Different people are currently using different criteria for their ceremonies, and it was recognised that this was for a range of reasons. It was agreed that this should be discussed in the meeting following the AGM.

Intergenerational response

How do we take it forward, young people seem to understand kindness, perhaps look at Dignity Do’s to match up with what children and young people understand. Again to discuss this in more detail in the next meeting.

Charitable status

We have re submitted the application and await a decision from the Charity Commission.

Standards for training

Liz raised the point that we often get requests for standards so that organisations can measure the effectiveness of their training. There are lots out there but perhaps we could bring things together in the way we have the dignity audits. There was some discussion about this but it was agreed we would take it forward in the meeting following the AGM.

**Any Other Competent Business**

None previously notified

**Date of the Next Annual Meeting**

Following a brief discussion and recognition that holding the AGM in November had resulted on more than one occasion in people having difficulty in attending it was agreed that the AGM next year should be held in September.

Date of Meeting 19th September 2016 at 11 a.m. Venue to be notified.

The meeting closed at 12. 49