

National Dignity Council
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held 22nd October 2020
Via Go To Meetings

Present: - Jan Burns MBE [Chair] Trustee
Jane Finnerty Trustee
Jean Hardiman Smith Trustee
Alan Clark MBE Trustee
Susan Brand Trustee
Clare Copleston Trustee
Roisin Burton Trustee
Rekha Elaswarapu Trustee

Apologies: - None received

In attendance: – Liz Taylor Honorary Secretary
27 Champions.

Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest not already on file were declared.

Minutes of 2019 AGM

No matters of accuracy were noted and they were accepted by the meeting. Jan Burns MBE thanked Liz Taylor for preparing them.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Annual Report

Jan Burns MBE expressed the thanks of the Council to Liz Taylor for once again pulling the report together.

The meeting noted the achievements that had been made during the course of the year. Whilst the pandemic restrictions had impacted at the end of the year, the Council had continued to promote Dignity in a number of areas and on a range of agendas. The Conference held in January went very well, and was much enjoyed by all who attended. The fact that we had been able to hold it at a venue that also delivered services gave added value to the event. Jan Burns MBE thanked our hosts Beacon for making us so welcome and for facilitating an excellent event. During the course of the year there had been lots of activities promoting dignity and we had again held the Dancing for Dignity event in October 2019, which had raised some funds for the campaign. In addition Dignity Action Day 1st February 2020 had again been successful and resulted in services both showcasing their work and making wishes come true for individual service users. It has been clear over the last year that the campaign has made a real difference to the lives of people. This year we have also been able to contribute to research that has been taking place, with Rekha Elaswarapu and Jan Burns MBE in particular being involved in some overseas research. It is also noteworthy that we are

getting increasing requests from groups outside the UK who are keen to develop similar campaigns and approaches.

In looking forward Jan Burns MBE commented that the pandemic had really highlighted the need to promote dignity in all that we do. She urged people to look on the website and use the resources that are available to promote Dignity. She also asked that people let us know if there are things we could do in addition. Jan Burns MBE also stated that as soon as it was possible The Council hoped to repeat the conference, but in the meantime they would look to find ways of enabling people to share their experiences and learning. She also set the target of achieving 200,000 signed up Champions by the end of this year.

Jan Burns MBE commended the report to the meeting. Clare Copleston proposed its acceptance and Jean Hardiman Smith seconded. The Report was accepted without dissent.

Accounts

Jane Finnerty presented the accounts, which were included in the Annual Report. She commented on the lack of grant income, and that all attempts were made to secure grant funding, The Council had not been successful. The website remains the major expense and as the shop window, it is a key channel of communication. The website hosts are very fair and provide a service at the best possible price. Liz Taylor works hard on the badges and wristbands, which cover their costs and make a small contribution to administration. The conference this year helped to main and sustain income. Sales are somewhat less than previous years, but continue to be steady.

In looking forward Jane Finnerty drew attention to the fact that the Dancing for Dignity event in 2020 had enabled the introduction of donations through the text giving, and donations through online shopping was also being considered, given the increase in online shopping due to the pandemic. The Council has recently signed up to the Amazon Smile system, this means that when shopping on Amazon Prime a 5p donation per one pound could be made to the Campaign. Details will be available on the website and in the next Newsletter.

Jean Hardiman Smith proposed acceptance of the accounts and Rekha Elaswarapu seconded. The accounts were accepted by the meeting without dissent.

Appointment of Trustees

Jan Burns MBE advised the meeting that the Trustees retiring this year were:-

- Jean Hardiman Smith; who has been with the Campaign since the beginning and has worked hard to raise the profile of the Campaign and the importance of Dignity. As the constitution requires that after three terms people should step down for twelve months Jean would not be standing for re-election. On behalf of the Council Jan Burns MBE thanked Jean for all her hard work – Jean stated that she will still carry on working for the Campaign.
- Susan Brand and Alan Clark MBE are retiring but standing for re-election. Again Jan Burns MBE thanked them for their hard work and commitment to the Campaign. She noted that Alan Clark MBE was particularly active in political circles locally and was a great petitioner for the campaign.
- Jane Finnerty is also stepping down as a Trustee having completed her three terms, but will remain as Treasurer. Jan Burns MBE expressed the Councils thanks to Jane for all she has done and will continue to do.

Rekha Elaswarapu, Clare Copleston and Roisin Burton, are all continuing in their current roles as Trustees and were thanked by Jan Burns MBE for the work that they continue to do locally and nationally, and internationally.

A nomination had also been received from Kelly Campbell a Champion who was active in the Bedfordshire Area.

Kelly Campbell, Susan Brand and Alan Clark MBE were all duly appointed as Trustees proposed by Clare Copleston and seconded by Roisin Burton. Carried without dissent.

Appointment of Chair

Rekha Elaswarapu assumed the chair-and proposed that Jan Burns MBE should continue as Chair. Roisin Burton seconded the proposal. The meeting agreed without dissent.

The meeting expressed its delight that Jan Burns MBE was staying on as she is so good and an excellent champion of the cause. Jan Burns MBE thanked the meeting for their kind words, but reminded those present that her three terms are up next year and the Council will need a Chair in waiting.

Appointment of Treasurer

Jane Finnerty was proposed by Clare Copleston and seconded by Roisin Burton, carried without dissent.

AOB

No other competent busines.

Date of Next AGM 2021

This will be announced on the website.

The meeting closed at 13.58.