



THE NATIONAL DIGNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at the Holiday Inn Bloomsbury
11th September 2018

Present:-	Jan Burns MBE;	Chair /Trustee
	Alan Clark MBE;	Trustee
	Frank Ursell MBE;	Treasurer / Trustee
	Rekha Elaswarapu;	Trustee
	Jane Finnerty;	Trustee
	Susan Brand;	Trustee
	Clare Copleston;	Nominated Trustee / Bedfordshire Network Lead
Apologies:-	Jean Hardiman Smith;	Trustee
	Leanne Stockwell;	Dignity Champion
	Carol Goldie	Dignity Champion
In Attendance:-	Kieun Kwon;	Dignity Champion
	Lillie Harvey;	Dignity Champion
	Liz Taylor;	Honorary Secretary
	Rigerta Ahmetaj;	Dignity Champion
	Chris Whittaker;	Dignity Champion
	Gillian Moncaster	Dignity Champion /North West Network Lead
	Carol Walsh	Dignity Champion
	Holly Irwin	NICE

1. Introductions

The start of the meeting was delayed until 11.20 to enable a quorum to be achieved.

The Chair Jan Burns opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and apologising to those who had experience some difficulty in finding the venue. Those present introduced themselves. Jan Burns reminded the meeting that whilst everyone was welcome only Trustees were eligible to vote.

2. Conflicts of Interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of 2017 Annual General Meeting.

3.1 No issues of accuracy were raised

3.2 There were no matters arising that were not already covered by the Agenda. The minutes were accepted and signed.

Proposed, Frank Ursell and seconded Alan Clark carried without dissent.

4. Annual report:

Copies were available to those attending and the document will be published on the Dignity in Care website. The reported was commended to the meeting by Jan Burns. She stated that it



covers the life of the Dignity Council over the last twelve months. This time last year we were unsure as to whether we would still be in existence, due to a very tight financial position. Over the intervening twelve months the Council platform and profile has been increased by ongoing involvement, with both the Care Quality Commission [CQC] and the Department of Health. We have been called upon to offer our expertise, and there is a lot of that on the Council, All the Trustees have been involved in raising the issues and keeping the campaign alive. The Council is represented on the co-production meetings with CQC. Next year Jan will be following up on the meetings she has brokered meetings with inspectors to look at how inspection will be aligned with dignity.

The National Dignity Council has representation on the Quality Matters board. Through the Quality Matters meetings Jan has been able to heighten the profile of the Council with other key stakeholders. We have been involved with the development of objective 4/5 and last week a resource was launched which will be going on the Dignity in Care website. Holly Irwin from NICE will pick that up in her later presentation.

The Danceathon was enjoyed by all who took part and raised around £4,000 through donations. Jan commented that everyone within the Council has put something in to the process in order to ensure that the message remains alive.

The report is not just a reflection on our year, it is also there for people to see that we are working hard to keep the campaign going. At this time we have over 106,000 champions, and the numbers are growing by approximately 1,000 a month. We are working both strategically at a national level, and locally with the champions' networks. We are all working hard to meet our Charitable objects to raise the awareness of citizens to their right to be treated with dignity. It is important that events that are held locally are shared so that they can contribute to the process of supporting the campaign as well as guiding the Council.

It was noted that the accounts are presented within the report.

5. Acceptance of Accounts :-

Frank Ursell added to the comments he had included in the report. Trustees know that we are still failing to secure any grant funding, but despite that we have managed to halve the deficit of previous years. We are still solvent and are keeping going through donations, covering the costs of badges and both Jan and Rekha have been 'charging' for some work that they have been doing, Jan has specifically earned £900 for working with Altura to develop a Dignity/Personal Care DVD that will be aired in the UK and Australia. Jan Burns emphasised that Trustees don't draw expenses we rely heavily on covering our costs for badges and wristbands all administrated by Liz Taylor. She has spent a great deal of time chasing non-payments for badges and has been very successful in her endeavours.

The acceptance of the Annual Report and Accounts was proposed by Rekha Elawasrapu and Susan Brand. Carried without dissent

6 Matters affecting the constitution –

This item was introduced by Jan Burns. She highlighted that it was being suggested to make it absolutely clear that Trustees did have responsibilities to attend meetings and stated that the Trustees had already had an opportunity to comment on the wording. Susan Brand raised a query about process, and it was agreed that it did need to be clear that apologies and reasons



for non-attendance did need to be given in writing. However it was felt that this was not a constitution matter, rather a procedural one.

Acceptance of the amendment was proposed by Frank Ursell and seconded by Alan Clark, carried without dissent.

7 Appointment of Trustees

7.1 Jan Burns expressed the thanks of the Council [and Champions] to Frank Ursell for the work he had done in his role as treasurer. During his time on the Council he had done much to promote the work of the Campaign as well as completing the tasks associated with the post. He has really been very supportive. He was wished all the best in his retirement.

7.2 At this point Jan Burns stood down and Alan Clark temporarily assumed the Chair.

He proposed that Jan Burns and Rekha Elawasrapu were re-elected, this was seconded by Susan Brand. Carried without dissent. .

7.3 Clare Coplestone was introduced as a new Trustee having submitted a successful application earlier in the year

Her appointment was proposed by Rekha Elawasrapu and seconded by Alan Clark c carried without dissent.

Jan Burns formally welcomed Clare Coplestone to the Council. .

8. Appointment of Chair.

Alan Clark proposed Jan Burns and this was seconded by Rekha Elawasrapu carried without dissent.

9. Appointment of Treasurer

The meeting advised that at this time there was no one available to stand, although there had been some expressions of interest. Frank Ursell kindly agreed to continue ensuring that the practical side of the role was managed until someone comes forward. The meeting expressed its grateful thanks

10. Any Other Business

None previously notified

11. Date of AGM 2019

To be confirmed.

Alan Clark asked that the work undertaken by Jan Burns and Liz Taylor was formally noted.

Rekha Elawasrapu commented that everyone agrees that Dignity is very important and integral to any setting. It is, however frustrating that there are people in key positions that don't appear to recognise its importance. There have been political changes that have called it different things and It does. Like everything else. have trends and fashions, but the campaign is clearly needed, and its great that people are working away at it. It is important to remember that little things do make a difference.



Jan Burns concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and for the work that they do, be they a Champion, a member of a Network or a Trustee

The meeting closed at 11.50