

# Hospice Africa

Registered Charity No. 1024903

UK Registered Company 2835469

**Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019** at the Brain Charity Centre, Norton Street, Liverpool

## **Apologies:**

J. Barr, J. Bennett, B. Charles, E. & B. Conlin, A. Cooper, B. Coulter, C. & C. De Souza, M. Hart, B. Jack, S. Jones, N. Kay, M. Kulkerrin, A. Lloyd-Williams, A & N Lowe, M. McCann, B. Morphy, S. Mumford, J. Munroe, L. Redpath, G. Reed, M. Reid, P. Sadler, J. Shawcross, O. Sykes, R. & J. Warrington.

## **Attending:** (45)

C. Bhatnagar, M. & T. Breslin, J. & M. Bunn, V. Crowley, W. Daunt, R. Doman, P. Dunne, G. Faulks, M. Gozzelino, M. Greenall, D. Harvey, D. Haynes, K. Holden, D. Humphrey, C. Ion, M. & M. Keen, C. Keane, M. Kilroe, P. Linnell, I. MacDonnell, R. McDonald, P. McDonald, E & P McNamara, C. McNamara, Bishop V. Malone, C. & M. Merriman, A. Merriman, M. Merriman, S. & H. Miller (Nottingham), M. Needham, D. & L. Phipps, F. Preston, P. Purcell, N & D. Rose, A Vassie, M. Weichers, L. Williams.

## **Welcome & Prayer**

The Chair, David Phipps, welcomed everyone to the AGM including those in a variety of types of involvement - charity shop volunteers from the Ainsdale and Old Swan shops; all Hospice Africa supporters and donors; those who work in Hospice work in the UK; those who have worked with Hospice Africa in some capacity in Africa; and Trustees.

David Phipps opened with prayer for all those involved in the work of Hospice Africa, particularly for those in Kampala, Mbarara and Hoima in Uganda, and those involved in hospice work in other African countries.

All apologies were noted.

## **2. Minutes of the AGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

The minutes were accepted as a correct record and there were no matters arising.

## **3. Reports.**

### **a) Annual Report – Chair’s Overview: David Phipps**

The Chair thanked our Hon. Treasurer, Pat Linnell, for all her hard work through the year as Treasurer and for compiling the Accounts for this financial year.

David thanked all our donors for their support and emphasised just how vital the donations are, large and small, as donations add up to the very significant support from the UK.

David referred to the two editions of the Newsletter in December and May. We find it useful to convey news in this way, but it is much cheaper to send by email where possible. Please let us know your email where possible if we don't already have it.

The charity shops continue to contribute in excess of £50k annually and give us a regular dependable income. The shop volunteers work tirelessly and we are grateful for the enormous support this provides for the work in Africa.

Peter Purcell, who has run the Liverpool shop for many years announced his retirement from the shop, due to ill-health. His contribution, is immeasurable - not only for the very significant funds raised at the shop, but his support for those who volunteer at the shop, as well as customers. His immense contribution has been greatly appreciated.

In addition, there are corporate organisations who give support and we duly acknowledge the support given by UK Aid through DFID.

David reviewed some of the UK fundraising activities including the Quiz in March, the Wirral Cycle Ride, as well as sponsored runs, cycles and various presentations.

Further, David drew attention to the Annual Report and in particular ...

- The work done 'In Kind' collecting unused stoma products from a number of Merseyside hospitals and sending over 550kg of goods, including several boxes of knitted goods including baby clothes and blankets.
- The good work of the International Programmes has continued in Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Tanzania to name but a few.
- Hospice Africa Uganda has had another challenging year, now that it is over 3 years since support from a large donor, USAID, finished. The budget has again had to be cut drastically and the number of staff reduced from 80 to 61. There are serious financial pressures in Uganda, and without the support from Hospice Africa in the UK, the situation would be dire.
- The Give a Chance Programme has continued to provide school fees and social worker support for the children from bereaved families.
- The Anne Merriman Hospice Africa Foundation has continued to work strategically by Skype to ensure that the Hospice Africa legacy is ongoing and the ethos is maintained.

The Chair concluded by thanking the Trustees for their hard work and dedication.

#### **b) Annual Report -Treasurer's Report: Pat Linnell**

Pat gave a brief summary of the annual accounts including salient points from the statement of financial activities and the balance sheet. The total income had reduced from £203k to £201k but it has still enabled Hospice Africa in the UK to continue to send substantial funds to support palliative care clinical services, palliative care education, and international programmes more broadly.

Pat drew attention to the net takings of the Liverpool shop (£25,143), and the Ainsdale shop (£16,279) which continue to underpin our income.

In conclusion, Pat pointed out that some money earmarked for Hospice Africa Uganda has been held back until there is further clarity about the HAU budget for 2019-20 and this distorts the income and expenditure to some extent.

We have committed to supporting Hospice Africa in Uganda by using of a significant portion of our income, which will restrict the possibility of supporting other projects. There continues to be severe pressures on finances in Uganda where the current income is still falling significantly short in supporting the palliative care team salaries and infrastructure. However, Hospice Africa UK is able to act responsibly and allocate its funds so as to maximise the benefit the palliative care in the African context.

#### 4. Appointment of Independent Examiner

David Phipps proposed and Ken Holden seconded that Roger Hughes should continue to act as Independent Examiner. The motion was accepted.

#### 5. Election of Officers:

Doug Haynes was thanked for his work in the role of Hon. Secretary; a role which will now be taken on by Clare Ion, although Doug has kindly agreed to provide support to Clare for the time being.

The following Officers for 2019-20 were proposed (P) and seconded (S) as indicated.

- **Hon. Chair:**       **Prof. David Phipps**   P - C Merriman       S - P. Purcell
- **Hon. Treasurer:** **Ms. Pat Linnell**   P - M. Bunn       S - K. Holden
- **Hon. Secretary:** **Ms. Clare Ion**   P - L Phipps       S – D. Haynes

The motions were accepted.

The whole Trustee Team were endorsed as the governing Trustees for Hospice Africa Ltd. in the UK:

Prof. Anne Merriman; Prof. David Phipps; Ms. Pat Linnell; Ms. Clare Ion;  
Mrs. Lesley Phipps; Mr. Michael Merriman; Prof. Ken Holden; Mr. Doug Haynes, Mrs Ann Vassie; Dr. Ged Faulks; Mr. Chris Merriman; Dr. Mary Bunn

**6. Any Other Business:** There was no other business; the Chair closed the business meeting.

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**Briefings** After a comfort break, David introduced **Prof. Anne Merriman.**

Anne outlined the many key **Issues** and **Developments** for Hospice Africa.

Anne spoke enthusiastically about a recent Project involving *Singing for Hope and Peace* – where choirs all over the world have been singing out the hospice message.

Anne continued with a briefing about the current work in Clinical Services and Educational Programmes which have continued in Uganda.

International Programmes continue to advocate for palliative care services across Africa, and support initiatives and training courses in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Conakry, Tanzania, and Congo Brazzaville.