

Friends of Amersham Health Centre (FAHC)
A Patient Participation Group

Annual General Meeting, 20th May 2021

7.30pm via Zoom

1. Those Attending

The meeting was attended by 18 members of FAHC.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Daphne Lally.

3. Introduction

The chairman (Patrick Clarke) opened the meeting and welcomed the members who had joined via Zoom. Although the Friends have been in existence in its current form since 2015 this was the first AGM.

4. Constitution

A draft constitution had previously been circulated for review and approval by the AGM. The meeting adopted the constitution unanimously. *Proposed by Lesley Mathieson, seconded by Vivienne Pozo.*

The constitution is available to all members on the Friends Page of AHC web site.

5. Annual Report

The chairman presented the Annual Report.

FAHC activities have been impacted by the Coronavirus but the committee have continued to produce high quality and informative material from a Communications team led by Daphne Lally. Output has included:

- Regular Newsletters with Health Centre updates and health articles.
- The Annual Bulletin referenced in the agenda which was originally planned to be printed as a pamphlet for distribution via the waiting room.

In addition to emails, text messages and the Health Centre web site as means of communicating with members, links have also been established to the Your Amersham Face Book page as an alternative way of getting messages to patients.

Until the virus struck, open meetings were held at which Dr Gabe and Dr Layng spoke. For the time being Zoom is being used for presentations/health talks initiated by AHC or provided by other practices, notably Rectory Meadow.

A patient survey was also conducted; the third of its type. The open meeting to present the results was cancelled but the survey is posted on AHC web site.

As a result of the Coronavirus, a major new activity has been the recruitment of volunteers; firstly to help with the flu campaign and latterly to help with the Virus Centre at Chesham Town Hall. The numbers of patients recruited were 10 or so for Flu and just over 100 for Coronavirus. A debt of gratitude is owed to all of them.

Commented [P1]:

A number of Initiatives have been put on hold due to the Virus including :

- Training courses for patients in the use of the Health Centre systems.
- Meetings between the Committee and Health Centre staff.
- Identification of opportunities to support the Health Centre by providing facilities that would be of value to patients but would not otherwise be available. FAHC has registered as a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to pursue these opportunities, but progress is not expected this year.

Looking outside the Health Centre ; FAHC has also played a part in two meetings:

- The Patients Groups supporting the Mid Chiltern Primary Care Network
- The Coronavirus sub group of the Communities board.

Looking to the future, the chairman stressed the need to work with the Health Centre and other patient groups to increase the influence that patients have over the way they are treated. As reported in the Press, there are choices. Patients should be involved in how to maximise the benefit that can be obtained from technology. To this end FAHC expects to be involved in a new patient survey which will try to understand how patients are feeling about the steps taken to deal with the pandemic.

6. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ending 5th April 2021 were presented by Peter Harper, Treasurer. He reported that the only significant item of expenditure had been the costs associated with achieving CIO status. The accounts were adopted by the meeting unanimously. *Proposed by Paul Morris, seconded by Stuart Johnston.*

The accounts are available to all members on the Friends Page of AHC web site.

7. Secretary's Report

The Secretary (Paul Morris) reported that FAHC membership stood at 1,080; an increase of 11% since July 2020. He presented an analysis that showed good levels of appreciation of the various communication channels used by FAHC.

The current members of FAHC Committee were re-elected unanimously. *Proposed by John Catton, seconded by Stuart Smith.*

The committee members are:

Patrick Clarke
Peter Harper
Paul Morris
Daphne Lally
Lesley Mathieson
Ann whitely
Vivienne Pozo
Nicky O'Driscoll

8. Any Other Business

As there were no items of AOB, the meeting was closed by the Chairman.

Paul Morris, Secretary, May 2021.