

East Kilbride & District

DEMENTIA CARERS GROUP

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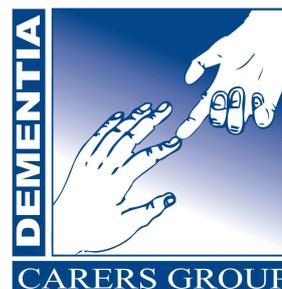
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Minutes of Annual General Meeting - 22nd August 2011, in 157 Pine Cresc, Greenhills, East Kilbride

Present

Susan Bennie, Suzanne Bennie, Sarah Boyd, Cllr Archie Buchanan, Liz Craig, Bill Craig, Alan Cunningham, Brian Doig, Donna Liddiard, Margaret McNab, Bill McSporrán, David Miller, Carole Richards, Janette Sime, John Vance, Sadie Young.

1. Welcome

John Vance welcomed everyone to the 19th Annual General Meeting and ensured that those present had received a copy of the previous year's Minutes. He thanked all committee, staff and associates for their hard work and commitment over the past year.

Before proceeding further, a list of apologies was given:

Roger Davidson, Kirsty Jamieson, Doris Liddell, Beth McAteer,

John referred to this being the group's 21st year and to the great achievement acquired for a local charity, especially in the current climate. This is the group's 19th AGM and the 10th year John has held Chair. John said he was very grateful for the support of everyone present and from the public for their support both financially and in kind. Without public support, our charity simply could not survive.

Work commitments had somewhat restricted John's input recently, and he wished to record his sincere thanks to the Management Committee for their excellent work. He stated that the secret of our success is the people, and that we would not be as successful without the hard work and dedication of the staff team. John thanked Co-ordinator Brian Doig for his efforts, and the hard work of the team as a whole. Lastly, John thanked cook/housekeeper Kirsty Jamieson for preparing the buffet that would follow the A.G.M..

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 2010

The Minutes of the AGM held on 22nd August 2010 were approved by J Sime and seconded by C Richards.

3. Matters Arising

"Susan Boyd" should read "Sarah Boyd". Minutes were corrected accordingly.

4. Chairperson's Report

The Chairman's report was contained within the Annual Report 2011 (copy available upon request), and John Vance read some of the main points and achievements:

- Firstly, recognition that in the current financial climate, for the Group to still be going strong and providing such a quality service is in itself a great achievement.
- Being awarded Volunteer Group of the Year by Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire was a very prestigious award indeed and testimony to the hard work and high standards of the whole team.
- Our partnership with M&S East Kilbride Town Centre has really started to build up as the relationship between the two groups has strengthened.
- Our Website and Facebook pages are regularly updated, generating publicity and providing public information. We are indebted to volunteer Iain McAteer who created and maintains our website.
- The monthly Dementia Café has been a great example of partnership working in action, being run jointly by ourselves, Alzheimers Scotland, NHS Lanarkshire Community Mental Health team and South Lanarkshire Council Social Work Resources. For us as a group, it has been an important source of referrals as well as a good way to help support the local community and provide information.
- Working with younger people is important to our Group, and we have continued to develop excellent links with South Lanarkshire College, participating in several mutually-beneficial joint ventures.

- Publicity is critical to our Group, and as well as our website and Facebook page, we are deeply indebted to the East Kilbride News and to STV Local for supporting and publicising us.
- Our Care Commission grades of 5,5,5,6 remain among the highest in dementia care.
- As we strive to ensure that people with dementia remain an active part of their community, trips and outings have become an increasingly critical part of our core service provision. The last year saw over 250 (two hundred and fifty) trips and outings, benefiting our Service Users and also our staff & volunteers.
- Likewise, fundraising and social activities have been important to our Group, allowing Carers, Service Users, Staff and Volunteers to mix freely and enjoy one another's company in a supported environment. These have also allowed the general public to join in and enjoy a good nights entertainment for a minimal cost. Such events recently have included the Swing Band night; a race Night and Indian Buffet; and a Variety Show at the Village Theatre.

John Vance closed by thanking the general public for their loyal support, as well as the public groups, clubs and individuals who have made such a difference by supporting us. He then invited questions arising from his report, but there were none.

5. Co-ordinator's Report

Brian Doig opened by sharing the following quotes from Service Users, who had been consulted at one of the regular forum meetings: *“the club is fantastic”, “the club is very cheerful”, “the club is wonderful”, “the club is supercalifragilisticexpialidocious”, “the club is enjoyable”, “the club is good”, “there are no negatives about the club”*. Brian shared that as part of staff enablement, he did not chair Service User forums, but staff and Service Users did. The particular staff member who chaired the meeting in which all this praise was given was very frustrated! She didn't want praise! She wanted to know what we could do better... she wanted the Service Users to tell us how we could improve and to shape the service they receive.

Brian then shared the following story:

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. “I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you.” “Why?” asked the bearer. “What are you ashamed of?” “I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your masters house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts.” The pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, “As we return to the masters house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path.”

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again the Pot apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, “Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pots side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my masters table.

Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house.”

Brian added that many a time, staff, volunteers, committee members all feel like that cracked pot! We all feel that we should and could be doing more! We often feel inadequate! We question our own contribution. We sometimes feel flawed and half-empty: drained. The simple truth is though, that our words; our acts of kindness; our listening ears; they all help the flowers to grow on the path of our Service users and Carers lives! We should never stop striving to improve; but it is good to pause and reflect on the difference that we *do* make! To stop and see the flowers, and to focus on what we *can* do rather than what we can't.

Brian concluded by commending the management committee for their encouragement and dedication towards our cause, and thanked the Care team for their wonderful work.

6. Treasurer's Report

Alan Cunningham presented the Treasurer's Report for the year 1st October 2010 to 31st March 2011. This was prepared by Accountants Alexander Sloan, of which Alan is a representative.

Alan introduced himself and stated that he has an affinity with the EK Dementia Carers Group, both professionally and personally. He can see the clear drive to continually improve.

The accounts presented are the first set of accounts relating to the new Company Limited by Guarantee. These accounts were unique in that the year was split into two sets of 6-monthly accounts, to satisfy the requirements of ORCR and show the transfer of assets from the old charity to the new Company on 30th September 2010.

Alan then gave an overview of income and expenditure for the period 1st October 2010 to 31st March 2011. He stated that it had been a remarkable achievement to maintain that level of income in the current financial climate. The accounts have been submitted to OSCR and Companies House, and all requirements have been met.

7. Resignation of Existing Committee

At the AGM in August 2010, all members were elected to serve for a 3-year term under the new Memorandum and Articles of Association.

8. Election of Committee

There were no new nominations to join the Management Committee.

9. Any Other Competent Business

John Vance closed by stating that it had been a pleasure to be part of this Group for so long, and that he hoped to be part of it for many years to come. He added that it is one of the best teams he has ever worked with and that he considers it a privilege.

John again stressed the value and worth of support from organisations and groups such as the Girls Brigade, The Rotary Club, M&S, local bowling clubs and local churches. That public support is crucial to our charity.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting then closed, to be followed by a cheese & wine social.