

East Kilbride & District
DEMENTIA CARERS GROUP
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Finding Scotland's Real Heroes - Carer of the Year

Minutes of Annual General Meeting – 21st August 2017, in 157 Pine Cresc, Greenhills, East Kilbride

Present

Suzanne Bennie, Susan Bennie, Sadie Young, Margaret McNab, Christine Montgomery, Donna Liddiard, Denise McTernan, Carol Richards, Archie Buchanan, Elizabeth Hossack, Brian Doig, Linda Fabiani MSP, Alan Cunningham (Alexander Sloan), Fiona Graham-McElhoney, Helen Johnston, Marie-Louise Houldsworth, Karen Kelly (representing Lisa Cameron MP), Cllr Collette Stevenson, Cllr David Watson.

Apologies

Michelle Campbell (EK C.A.B.), Mark Campbell, Ashling Mooney, Janette Sime, Maureen McManus, Lisa Cameron MP, Liz Gallacher.

1. Welcome

Archie Buchanan welcomed everyone to the 25th Annual General Meeting, his third as Chairman. He thanked all those present for their attendance and support.

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 2016

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th August 2016 were approved as accurate by Sadie Young and seconded by Susan Bennie.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairperson's Report / Co-ordinator's Report

Chairman Archie Buchanan gave a vote of thanks to Brian, Donna, the staff, Volunteers and all Committee Members for their commitment and support, praising the consistently high standard of care and support provided. He said that the staff and volunteers regularly go way beyond what they are expected to do and they are a first class team. He made a special mention for the cook Irene, saying that she is "excellent" and that she makes "lovely soup"!

Archie has been enjoying his time as Chair, and is always impressed by the level of community support. He made a particular reference to the support last year from M&S Kingsgate, and for this year Sainsburys Kingsgate and TSB East Kilbride who have selected us as their charity of the year.

Archie commended the Fundraising team for their exceptional efforts, pointing out that it is a team effort by a group of volunteers. He did single out Elizabeth Hossack for special praise for her contribution to the fundraising team.

He concluded by inviting questions from those present at the meeting. There were no questions and he handed over to Brian Doig.

Brian thanked the Management Committee for their leadership and the staff and volunteers for their support and commitment.

Brian paid tribute to the singer Glen Campbell who had very recently passed away after a long struggle with Alzheimers.

Brian shared that he had the privilege of seeing Glen Campbell a few years ago during his farewell tour. Glen received a standing ovation from the capacity crowd at the end of the evening in recognition of a flawless performance, and yet Brian observed a few things that highlighted just how advanced his Alzheimers was.

There were monitors at the front of the stage that showed the words to all the songs. At one point, the singer looked at the title and had to ask, “did I just sing that song or is it the next one?”

How was he able to give such a powerful performance despite such a high level of confusion?

His Daughter Ashley Campbell was in his band. She ever so gently and discreetly helped him throughout the gig, keeping eye contact; guiding him to the right place on the stage with a smile and a nod. She was so encouraging and so gentle; yet so discreet. Her assistance undoubtedly helped Glen Campbell shine that night and receive the adulation of the crowd.

Brian likened Ashley Campbell’s role at the concert to that of two groups of people in EK Dementia Carers.

Firstly, the care staff. He said that the best kind of care is that which doesn’t seem like care at all. It is about discreetly encouraging people to do what they CAN do; to focus on their ABILITIES; to let them shine and feel good about themselves by discreetly encouraging and assisting from the background.

Secondly, The Management Committee. Ashley was content to stay in the background and let her Dad stand in the spotlight getting the praise, but without her in the supportive role that would not have been possible. Brian, Donna and the team are the ones in the “spotlight” and often getting the praise, but the background support of the Management Committee underpins all that the Group does and despite the lack of glamour or tangible rewards, it is an essential role without which the Group simply couldn’t function.

The Staff and Committee combined are what allows our Service Users to have their Glen Campbell moments: to do the things they are good at and to get a sense of achievement.

Brian closed by once again thanking the staff, volunteers and Management Committee, along with all our supporters who are very much an essential part of our team. He then quoted lyrics from an old but well known Glen Campbell song, Try A Little Kindness:

Don't walk around the down and out, Lend a helping hand instead of doubt,
And the kindness that you show every day, Will help someone along their way
You got to try a little kindness, Yes show a little kindness, Just shine your light for everyone to see.
And if you try a little kindness, Then you'll overlook the blindness
Of narrow-minded people on the narrow-minded streets.

Brian invited questions from those present at the meeting. There were no questions arising.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Sadie Young passed the presentation the Treasurer’s Report for the year 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 to Alan Cunningham of Accountants Alexander Sloan, who had independently examined and approved the accounts.

Alan Cunningham gave an overview of accounts for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. He then gave an overview of the Income and Expenditure and highlighted the Groups Balance Sheet figure of £57,764 which he said represented the good work of the Directors who have a significant responsibility in their often unseen work.

Alan felt that the Annual Report clearly reflected the good work of the Charity and their “resounding pursuit of excellence”. The report has been submitted to Companies House and O.S.C.R..

Archie invited questions from those present at the meeting on Alan’s report. There were no questions.

7. Election of Committee

Three Members had completed their term and were due to stand for re-election: Christine Montgomery, Carole Richards and Janette Sime. Janette Sime was not seeking re-election to the Management Committee. Carole Richards was proposed by Susan Bennie and seconded by Margaret McNab. Christine Montgomery was proposed by Sadie Young and seconded by Susan Bennie. Both were duly re-elected to the Management Committee.

The Management Committee going into the next term was therefore as follows:

- The Directors of the Company remained: Archie Buchanan (Chairman); Carole Richards (Secretary); Sarah Young (Treasurer); Christine Montgomery (Vice-Chair).
- The Committee Members of the Group are now: Susan Bennie, Elizabeth Hossack, Margaret McNab, Denise McTernan, Ashling Mooney plus the four directors.

The Group is keen to recruit new blood onto the Management Committee, adding new ideas and new skills.

8. Any Other Competent Business

Linda Fabiani MSP expressed gratitude to the Group, saying that it was a pleasure to be at an Organisation that was so well run and which did such valuable work in the community.

Archie then closed the meeting and invited everyone to remain behind for refreshments and a chat.