

The Blackdown Support Group Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 10th July 2018 at 7.00pm

At Throgmorton Community Hall, Dunkeswell

THOSE PRESENT: Sarah Folland (Chairman), Elizabeth McNabb (Co-ordinator), Nicky Summerfield (Treasurer), Heather Stallard, Vicky Norton, Doreen Perrott, Bill Morris, Alice Hodges, David Corden, Carol Gill, Jocelyn Pritchard, Jacqui Cave, Ros Channon (Minutes Secretary). **Also:** Jane Corden, David and Kathleen Gollin, Gloria and David Dobinson, Mr and Mrs Williams, Karen Button, Sue Lambert, Sally Clist, Mr and Mrs Mills, Nida Tucker, Audrey Gardener, Rob Cadwallader, Reg McClelland, Paddy Howe, Mr and Mrs Manley, Elaine Moralee, Mr and Mrs Shimell, Carolyn Alexander, Stuart and Sarah Groves, John and Barbara Long, Anne Barker, Mrs Grimoldry, Brenda Bryant, Judith Ward, Richard Jeffrey, Irene Pym, David and Marian Redwood, Glyn Mannion-Butler, Joan Fewtrell, Pauline Brown. **Apologies:** Judith and David Major, Tony Durbin, Nick Milton, Roger Lambert, Ursula Robertson, Joan Cooper, Dawn Laughton, Brian and Barbara Simpson, Monica Shipton, Jean and Doug Dyke, Anetta Luscombe, Susan Doggett, Christine and Jonathan Meads.

Minutes of the last AGM. The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the previous year's meeting. Proposed: Heather Stallard: Seconded: David Corden.

Matters Arising – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Sarah Folland introduced Elizabeth Mc Nabb (Co-ordinator) Nicola Summerfield (acting Treasurer) Ros Channon (Minutes Secretary) and Rob Cadwallader (Independent Examiner).

Co-ordinator's Report The Co-ordinator, Elizabeth McNabb, presented her report and thanked everyone for their support over the past year – Sarah Folland, Nicola Summerfield, Ros and Sandra, the trustees, volunteers, friends, Karen Button the staff and all the partners at the surgery. The Blackdown Support Group currently have 349 people across the hills using our community car service. Our drivers have averaged 147 journeys a month and have clocked up 41,532 miles over the course of the year. Elizabeth spoke of all the activities that the Blackdown Support Group provide. Judith Ward asked how many volunteer drivers the Blackdown Support Group have and Elizabeth McNabb replied that the current number was 44.

Treasurer's Report. The acting treasurer, Nicola Summerfield was introduced and presented her report. In financial terms the year has been very steady. Income for the year was almost £50k, slightly above that set in the budget, mainly due to 50% more in general donations and higher investment income. Expenditure was slightly lower than last year and lower than budget. Salaries in particular were lower, due to fewer hours worked. Looking at the balance sheet, the group has a sensible range of financial investments, unit trusts and deposit accounts. Although the reserves currently look very healthy, it must be appreciated that future income, especially from local authorities, is in decline and efforts must be made to replace that income with other fund-raising.

Current cash assets cover annual running costs up to March 2020 assuming current activity levels remain the same.

Investments have generated almost 10K income, about a fifth of all income, so makes up a very important source of cash for the Group. The Equity funds valuation is slightly down at the year-end but a quick check of the valuation at the end shows an improvement and it's important to remember that the value of your investments can go down as well as up.

It must be noted that the Clinical Commissioning Group income has ended, as has been forecast for some time, so the budget set for this year 2018-2019 shows a forecast deficit, so your trustees are looking at ways to implement sustainable fund-raising.

Thanks were given to Rob Cadwallader for examining the Accounts.

Elaine Moralee asked if the figure £358,533 was the total funds of the Blackdown Support Group. Nicola spoke to confirm that that was correct but said although this looked good on paper most of the amounts were in investments. Heather Stallard spoke to say that it was always been the view of the committee to try and keep any legacies invested for the future needs of the group so if funding came to an end the group would be independent enough to continue with its work. The accounts were accepted. Proposed by: Judith Ward; Seconded: Bill Morris.

Chairman's Report Sarah gave thanks for the continuing support of the committee and the staff (past and present) and Karen Button. Thanks were extended to the amazing contribution played by the volunteers that maintain and extend the activities on the ground. Farewell had been said to some and we have welcomed new and enthusiastic people ready to donate fantastic skills. Last August we heard of Barbara's plans to retire. Before Christmas we expressed our appreciation for the efforts she made to this charity over her 14+ years at the helm. We really hope she enjoys her travels and retirement. Sarah spoke of the changes on the committee – especially the contributions made by David Gollin and Witek Nowosielski who left in the autumn. Grateful thanks went to David Corden and David Major who have played a huge role in overseeing the financial situation. Nicky Summerfield who took on the role of 'treasurer' was welcomed. Sarah welcomed Elizabeth who took up her role with energy and enthusiasm and adapted quickly to the challenges at a busy time for the charity and has been working with the medical practice and the Blackdown Healthy Living Centre in reviewing the needs of the communities of the Blackdown Hills in relation to health and social needs. This has already led to more 'joined up' working. Our office team have been flexible and supportive to the changes and we convey great appreciation to Ros and Sandra in maintaining a responsive and flexible response to client requests and needs. The Committee recently agreed to the updating of the accounts system and to the outsourcing of the payroll management. Challenges to meet in the future are the declining funding streams from the statutory bodies. We remain very grateful to those Parish Councils that give regular support either directly or through the Somerset Community Fund. Most importantly we so greatly value the donations and contributions given by other groups and by private and family donors. We will continue to promote the work and services of the BSG to local interest groups and seek potential funders. Sarah thanked all colleagues for the help and support received during her time as Chairman. Sarah mentioned Vicky Norton as the probable nominee for the Chair and wished her well and assured her of the full support of the team. Special thanks to Heather Stallard for arranging the refreshments and to the entertainment team for giving their time and talents'.

Elections:

Minutes Secretary for the Management Committee Nominated: Ros Channon: Proposed: Richard Jeffery; Seconded: Irene Pym

Election of Hon.Treasurer for the Management Committee Nominated: Nicola Summerfield Proposed: David Corden; Seconded: Heather Stallard

Election of the Board of Trustees (Management Committee)The Chairman advised that there was one new trustee that had been nominated - Bill Morris, all other members were prepared to continue and this was agreed unanimously and adopted without objection. Proposed: Judith Ward; Seconded: Pauline Brown.

Blackdown Practice Manager

Karen Button spoke and thanked all at Blackdown Support Group and said how she felt the staff and volunteers were all part of the Blackdown Practice team. Heather Stallard expressed sincere thanks to Sarah Folland for chairing the Committee through the past 3 year – a time of major changes for the group. The meeting was then closed by the chairman, who thanked all who attended.

Entertainment was then provided by Dunkeswell Handbell Ringers followed by cheese and wine.