

# THE BRIGITTE TRUST

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 at 7pm held online via Zoom conference

**Members Present:** Jan Way, Peter Lagerberg, Anne Sutton, David Farmery, Mary Guypinkney, Nick Johnson, Lucy Beach, Ingrid Walker, Sarah Pattenden, Mandy East, Tanya Stafford, Liz Dolman, Sue Crawforth, Wendy Richards, Vanessa Smith, Susan Waddell

**Proxy Votes:** David Finnigan, Diana Unwin, Eimear D'Arcy, Lynda Johnson, Lesley Pearce

**Minutes:** Peter Lagerberg

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Sue Bentley, Sir Paul Beresford, Sue Bernardis, Lisa Cox, David Finnigan, Lynda Johnston, Michael More-Molyneux, Lesley Pearce, Dana Persad

### 2. Welcome & Introduction

Jan Welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that there was a quorum so the meeting could proceed. Jan noted that the meeting would be focused and would follow the normal AGM format.

### 3. The Treasurer's Report – David Farmery

David introduced the Treasurer report and noted that the report is for the period to the end of March. In that period the trust made a loss of around 30k, but David noted that the reserves were strong at the beginning of the year and remained so. Income has declined for the period because of a decline in grant income. Grant funding had been strong previously, and particularly during the pandemic. However, more recently the high level of reserves had meant that grant givers had been less amenable to making grants to the Trust. Other areas of income have been stable during the period. On the other hand, expenses have increased in the period as the trust has invested more to support more underlying activity in the trust. Reserves remain at strong at circa 360k, which represents about 18 months of expenditure. The reduction in the grant activity is likely to continue, and as a result the Trust is looking to grow other areas of income.

Jan thanked David for his presentation and his ongoing work as Treasurer.

#### **4. Chairs Report and annual review**

Jan reviewed the year and noted that at the start of the year under the review the Trust was operating under a different model by providing additional support in the pandemic. This meant that additional clients were supported on a remote basis and a significant number of new volunteers joined to support those clients. As the impact of the pandemic receded the trust introduced some new groups such as the Bereavement support group and the Coffin club which have both been very successful. Death cafes have also been introduced. Jan noted the recent article in the Times about the Coffin Club which was helping to generate more interest.

Jan also noted that the trust has now returned to normal client visits, however the number of volunteers has also reduced and addressing this is a key focus.

Jan noted that following the aftermath of the pandemic the trustees continued to meet on an online basis, and that had continued to work well.

Jan also noted that recently there have been some good events held by the Trust – such as the volunteer awards evening and a golf club fundraising event at Clandon Regis golf club.

#### **4. Approval of the minutes of the Last AGM**

The adoption of the minutes of the last meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 was approved unanimously.

#### **5. To receive and adopt the Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

This motion was approved unanimously. It was therefore resolved to receive and adopt the Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

#### **6. To appoint Ellis Atkins as the independent auditors to the Trust and to authorise the Trustees to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.**

This motion was approved unanimously. It was therefore resolved to receive and adopt that the meeting appoints Ellis Atkins as the independent auditors to the Trust and that the trustees be authorised to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.

#### **7. Election of Trustee**

The motion to elect Nick Johnson to the Board of Trustees was approved unanimously. The motions to re-elect Peter Lagerberg, Anne Sutton and Jan Way were also approved unanimously.

#### **4. Charity Manager's Report – Lucy Beach**

Lucy highlighted some of the new activities that have been introduced and in particular noted that the coffin club has been successful with two groups having been run last year. The recent Times article has increased its profile further.

Lucy showed a video about the coffin club, the purpose of which was to show that people had options on their funeral choices.

Next year it is proposed to run one coffin club over 8 weeks.

Lucy also noted that the Trust had held an end-of-life matters event which was well received, and it is intended to be run again.

Lucy noted that the bereavement support groups had been well received. Lucy introduced Sarah who noted that 11 groups have been established, and these groups seem to be meeting a significant need. The feedback from participants has been very good. Sarah also noted that positive feedback has been received from some of the hospitals, which may be because of the fact that the BT groups provide a course structure which not all the other groups do.

Lucy also showed a video about the end-of-life event.

Jan noted that both videos showed the range of activities that the Trust was getting involved in.

#### **5. Closing Remarks**

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking guests, supporters, trustees, members and staff for their attendance and for their ongoing support of the Trust.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.