

NHS RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

Minutes of a meeting of National Council held on Tuesday 20 March 2018 at 12.30hrs

PRESENT

Margaret Moffat	Chairman	George Kempton	Vice Chairman
Marilyn Beardmore	Wales	Barbara Smart	North West
Michael Bennett	N E Thames	Lorraine Taylor	North West Thames
Katherine Haslam	East Anglia	Ros Lobo	S W Thames
Mike Lockett	West Of England	Judith McMurray	Scotland
Eleanor Walsh	Wessex	Jack Yan	South East Thames

In Attendance

John Rostill OBE	Chief Executive
Bob Middleton	Project Officer
Sherry Smith	Fellowship Administrator
Anthea Zell	Operations Coordinator

The Chairman welcomed National Council members and Judith McMurray from Scotland. She also welcomed Bob Middleton, Project Officer. She reported that Michael Endean had been elected a Regional Representative for the South West

1569 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

Apologies had been received from Sue Williams, Grace Clarke, Win Morrison, Michael Endean, Pat Oliver and Andrew Moss

1570 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2017

Jack Yan proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2017 should be accepted, this was seconded by Michael Bennett.

1571 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Ros Lobo queried progress on achieving a trademark for the title of the charity. It was reported that the process was in hand. John Rostill asked to be informed if any member hears of a group using the NHS Retirement Fellowship title; he will follow up on a group in Warwickshire that may be using this title

JR

1572 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report was accepted by the members

1573 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

John Rostill reported on the letter sent to NHS Trust Chairmen and Chief Executives by Simon Stevens and Ian Dalton in England. Ken Jarrold was thanked for facilitating this initiative. Six organisations had responded

asking for more information about the Fellowship. In response to Kathleen Haslam's query, John Rostill said that he will be asking NHS organisations who respond to engage with the Fellowship, promote the charity to retirees and encourage retirees to volunteer in their hospital. He emphasised that branches must maintain an ongoing dialogue with their local NHS; many examples exist of such branches and they are to be congratulated. John Rostill will be pleased to support any branch whose request for engagement and support has been rejected. This initiative only relates to England; the Fellowship in Scotland has made significant advances developing excellent relationship with the Scottish Government over the past eighteen months and there are ongoing discussions in Wales.

1574 HERITAGE LOTTERY BID

Bob Middleton reported that the Fellowship had successfully attracted a Heritage lottery Grant of £10,000. The project will celebrate people and their experiences in the NHS in a number of ways. Five exhibitions will be held; in Brighton, London, the north, Scotland and Wales commencing in July in Brighton. The considerable work undertaken in Brighton can be partially replicated in other areas. George Kempton commented that a local museum is working with the Fellowship on an exhibition. Involving other organisations enables sharing of resources but the events should be seen as NHSRF initiatives.

Health Heroes Reminiscences Events will take place in national centres of excellence or key postgraduate centres. The events will demonstrate and describe what health care looked like in 1948 from a number of perspectives including primary and secondary care, community and mental health services.

Branches will be encouraged to hold a celebratory event, preferably in conjunction with other branches; £40 per branch will be available to support these events and the charity has identified additional funding. It was agreed to set up a project group to coordinate events and Lorraine Taylor, Ros Lobo and Sherry Smith offered their support for this. John will seek a nomination from the north / Midlands. JR

This initiative is important for the Fellowship in promoting the charity, raising the Fellowship's profile locally and nationally and recruiting new members. George Kempton and Barbara Smart will discuss promotion on rolling adverts in GP and hospital waiting rooms. GK/BS

Representatives were requested to let Central Office know what events have been planned within the Country / Region and by whom. RRs

Bob Middleton gave information to Representatives about other grants that could be accessed to support national and local projects

1575 BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund report was received; the chairman asked Representatives to encourage branches to promote the fund to their members. Paul Farenden is looking at the application form to assess whether any improvements are necessary

1576 MEMBERSHIP CAPITATION

Michael Bennett reported that there had been a favourable response to the proposal to submit capitation subscriptions in the year to which they related. However, since initial soundings had been taken a number of branches reported that they used the capitation subscriptions as operating revenue in the year that these subscriptions were collected, and they submitted capitation subscriptions from the subscriptions received in the following year. It was agreed unanimously to put this recommendation on hold and to recommend that membership capitation subscriptions should be submitted in-year from 1 April 2020. Representatives are asked to prepare branches for this. RRs

1577 WEBSITE

The report on the progress of the development of a new website was accepted. The project group comprises Barbara Smart, John Rostill, Margaret Moffat, Sherry Smith, Donald Leggett (database consultant and webmaster) and Anthea Zell. The group will be meeting with the two shortlisted website development companies on March 23rd and the Fellowship is aiming for a launch at the AGM in November.

1578 REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS/COUNTRIES

The reports from the countries and regions were accepted by the members; Chris Iremonger resigned at the end of February and she was formally thanked for her valuable and successful contribution to the Fellowship. It was questioned as to whether Development Officers should attend National Council meetings. The Fellowship is a membership led organisation and the National Council represents the membership; the attendance of Development Officers would add to staff costs in time and expenditure and it was considered to be of limited benefit. The Welsh 40th anniversary celebration will be held at Bedwellty House on 25 July 2018.

1579 MEMBERSHIP

At the National Council meeting in September 2017, it was reported that more relevant data would be presented at this National Council meeting. The figures produced are the membership numbers on the database on February 28th 2018. The figures now stand at 9898 members.

1580 AGM 2018

John Rostill reported that the AGM and conference would be held at the Queens Hotel in Chester on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd November 2018. Isle of Wight Tours are sending out information in early April. The Queens Hotel has more single rooms than were available in Nottingham and an overflow hotel is sited directly across the road. Both hotels are very close to the station and are well situated. The option of extra day's stay will be offered to members. The Chairman asked Representatives to promote the AGM and conference to branch members RR

1581 70th ANNIVERSARY NHS / 40th ANNIVERSARY YEAR NHSRF

The activities surrounding the 70th and 40th anniversary celebrations had mainly been covered in previous agenda items. John Rostil asked Representatives to inform Central Office of any past and planned activities. RR

Ethel Armstrong had made a major media impact and has continued to be asked to further media events - so far she has been filmed for an episode of the Great British Menu and a documentary on radiography. She had attended the Parliamentary Awards ceremony at the House of Commons on 7 February. She received her MBE at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 15th March and there was massive media coverage. Ethel was congratulated on her award.

Other members had been highlighted in the media; Janet Hardingham (Norwich), a Casualty sister in the early days, Joyce Thompson (Preston) appeared at the CNO leadership Conference and has been invited to speak at Trafford Hospital in July, Olive Belfield (South Manchester) has been interviewed for a BBC2 "Witness" programme on midwifery and health visiting and Cecilia Brown has been involved in the 70th anniversary commemorations celebrating the departure of MV Empire Windrush from Jamaica. Ken Jarrold, Paul Farenden, John Toman and John Rostill have been interviewed by Emma Dent on how legislation has affected the NHS over the years.

John Rostill reported that the Fellowship will be exhibiting at the NHS Confederation Conference, at Expo 18 and at NHS Providers. A stand at no charge has been offered at all three conferences.

Manchester University are undertaking a project in the North West and South Wales and project workers have visited the Gwent branch to speak to members.

There had been a disappointing number of nominations for Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Margaret Moffat proposed an "Unsung Heroes" award for members who make a considerable contribution to the branches. It was agreed that the eligibility criteria needed to be determined. MM

1582 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Margaret Moffat thanked both Representatives and Development Officers who had resigned. The need to recruit new Representatives was discussed and it was accepted that more needed to be done to encourage applications. Representatives will contribute to an article for the newsletter, by 31 March 2018, on their experiences of being a Country / Regional Representative RRs

Margaret Moffat reported on the process for nominating members to attend the Royal Garden Parties in the summer.

Representatives were asked to submit their expenses for the period to 31 March immediately or as soon as possible after that date. RRs

Lorraine Taylor reported that the Della holiday for 2018 would be between 7 and 14 October near Malaga. Details will be published on the website.

Michael Bennett reported Age UK had invited members support for an Age Concern discrimination campaign relating to travel Insurance.

John Rostill briefly reported on the new Data Protection Act (GDPR) that comes into effect on 25 May 2018. The Fellowship is seeking advice from a niche solicitor to advise us and he will send out advice for branches by the end of April. The need for the new website to be GDPR compliant has been included in the specification.

In response to a query from Katherine Haslam, Lorraine Taylor confirmed that the Development Officers were responsible for initiating the process for nominating a new Representative.

Barbara Smart suggested that Representatives could share information, events, suggestions and concerns via What's App however some members explained that they do not use this form of media and another way of sharing should be explored.

1583 DATES OF 2018 MEETINGS

The date of the next National Council meeting will be

WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2018

The date of the AGM and conference will be

THURSDAY 1 AND FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2018

The meeting closed at 15.25hrs