

NHS RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

Minutes of a meeting of National Council held on Wednesday 3 October 2018 at 11.00hrs

PRESENT

Margaret Moffat	Chairman	George Kempton	Vice Chairman
Marilyn Beardmore	Wales	Barbara Smart	North West
Michael Bennett	N E Thames	Michael Endean	South West
Katherine Haslam	East Anglia	Ros Lobo	SW Thames
Judith McMurray	Scotland	Pat Oliver	Oxford
Barbara Smart	North West	Loreen Smith	Scotland
Lorraine Taylor	NW Thames	Eleanor Walsh	Wessex
Rosemary White	Wessex	Jack Yan	S E Thames

In Attendance

John Rostill OBE	Chief Executive
Sherry Smith	Fellowship Administrator
Anthea Zell	Operations Coordinator

The Chairman welcomed National Council members; Michael Endean, Rosemary White and Loreen Smith were attending their first meeting as National Council members.

1584 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ACTION

Apologies had been received from Sue Williams,

1585 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2018

George Kempton proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2018 should be accepted, this was seconded by Barbara Smart

1586 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

John Rostill reported that Karen Kennedy had been appointed as Development Officer in the North West

Margaret Moffat informed National Council members that there had been only a small number of nominations for the 'Unsung Hero' award; the winner will be presented with their certificate at the AGM.

1587 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Margaret Moffat spoke initially to explain that she had not written a report as her activity and that of John Rostill had been very similar, however during this year she had visited 14 branches, attended 2 AGMs, 2 regional meetings, 5 Members' Days and 2 Exhibitions. She, George Kempton and John Rostill were also meeting regularly

John Rostill asked Representatives to encourage their members to join the RRs Patient's Association as fully fledged members which is now free.

John spoke about the document Developing a Long term Plan for the NHS. The Fellowship have been encouraged to submit comment and it is possible that the RF will be invited take places on the working parties and other stakeholder events. The Scottish and Welsh Governments have similar initiatives. RRs

George Kempton reported that some members had found the document daunting. John Rostill suggested specific issues where Fellowship members could add value: Core values, Spreading good practice across the country and Barriers to good health. Rosemary White spoke of the lack of conformity in spreading good practice nationwide. In agreeing with this, Ros Lobo highlighted areas of prevention, and promotion of health and wellbeing. Representatives were asked to contact John Rostill identifying their areas of interest. He suggested that members can identify issues when working in the NHS that caused satisfaction and dissatisfaction. RRs

Michael Bennett cautioned that offering support and input into health strategy should not deflect the Fellowship from addressing the prime need for recruitment of new members.

John Rostill reported that celebratory events across the countries had been magnificent and he particularly mentioned the 40th anniversary event in Cheltenham (the oldest branch) He asked representatives to encourage members to tell their stories and state why they joined the Fellowship. RRs

1588 **BENEVOLENT FUND**

The Benevolent Fund report was received; Lorraine Taylor reported that a number of applications had been turned down as the application did not meet the criteria. In particular, applicants were rejected due to savings in excess of £4,000. Members agreed to recommend that the savings limit should be increased. JR

John Rostill expressed his concern about the dissatisfaction expressed by members about the Benevolent Fund. Representatives were asked to pinpoint what the issues were and to report this to him. RRs

Katherine Haslam and Ros Lobo recommended continued publicity for the Fund and regular articles in the newsletter, particularly highlighting the raised Savings limit. CO

1589 **WEBSITE**

John Rostill reported that progress was being made in developing the new website and that the design would be available by the AGM. Margaret Moffat stressed the importance to recruitment of a modern website and requested representatives to encourage branches to submit interesting news articles and pictures that would be attractive to potential new members. RRs

1590 **70/40 CELEBRATIONS AND HERITAGE PROJECT**

Margaret Moffat had been very impressed by the enthusiasm of members involved in the 70/40 events. Representatives reported local events that had not received as much publicity but had widened the interest and knowledge about the Fellowship locally. Rosemary White commented on the many events posted on the Fellowship's Facebook site.

John Rostill commented on Vic Griffith's work in negotiating a link to the NHS RF on NHS Trust intranet sites. Lorraine Taylor had a fruitful conversation with Jane Cummings, the Chief Nursing Officer, NHS England; she had agreed to encourage Trust Directors to support the Fellowship and to include references to the Fellowship in documentation.

John Rostill reported that the Heritage DVD would be available shortly and can be used for recruitment.

1591

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS/COUNTRIES

John had not contacted the organisers of the WASPI campaign as they were in the process of restructuring; he will contact them when completed. Vic Griffiths is in touch with the organisers of a Windrush event and another on volunteering in A & E

JR

An excellent example of branches sharing is through the setting up of the M25 group

It is very encouraging to see the progress in Scotland and the good liaison between Hilary Robb and the Scottish Government. She has negotiated a grant for 2018/19 but this is not likely to be recurring. Hilary has started work on the Social Care project ; John Rostill commented on the fact that there is no over-arching organisation for social care to lobby,

The Welsh conference in September had been excellent and Vaughan Gething, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, had been supportive asking members to engage with the Welsh Plan and for our involvement.

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AGM & CONFERENCE 2018

AGM and annual conference will be held in Chester on 1 and 2 November. The numbers attending are good and the organisation is on track. Nick Symonds AM was suggested as a possible conference speaker.

1593

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lorraine Taylor suggested that the date for final submission for branch accounts should be brought forward to June; Representatives thought this would be agreeable to branch treasurers. Lorraine Taylor also suggested that branches should be encouraged to have their AGM in April or May. Michael Bennett queried what difference this would make and what advantage to the branch or Central Office function. It was reported that bringing forward the submission of accounts a month would not enable the Fellowship to hold a conference much earlier in the year. Representatives voted by 8 votes to 2 that branches should be canvassed on these two issues

RRs

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DATES OF 2019 MEETINGS

Central Office will circulate the date of the next meeting

The meeting closed at 12 noon