

Association of Friends of Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court

Secretary David C. Badger
22 Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea,
Essex, SS9 3DN
01702 712316 07949 636114
david@davidbadger.co.uk

Minutes of the AGM Meeting

Held on Thursday 25th November 2021 at Howard Hall, Braintree, CM7 9AA.
Commencing at 6.15pm

Present

Barry Stedman, Clive Dunnico, Nigel Oldacre, Karine Oldacre, Dennis May, Graham Larke, Graham Elvidge, Nick Franklin, Eric Broadbent, Malcolm Taylor and Agnieszka McDonald

Apologies

David Badger, Andrew McLeod, M.C. Black, Graham Turner, Lloyd Harris, George Lambert.

Item 1. Welcome.

The President, Barry Stedman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly W. Bro. Nick Franklin the Deputy PGM.

Item 2. Conflicts of Interest.

This will be covered when matters arise.

Item 3. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 9th December 2020.

The Minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

Item 4. Matters arising.

These were covered under their respective Headings.

Item 5. President's Report.

Though the President had been in touch with Jade while Aggie has been away, unfortunately had not been able to offer more than moral support on behalf of the Friends. The appointment of President is in the hands of the PGM, not so the Vice-President. This role has not been filled since the sad passing of Brian Proctor. Following discussion with the Chairman we concluded there was only one person for the job. This person puts in so much work behind the scenes for the benefit of the residents. Karine Oldacre has been approached and accepted the position, which takes place as of this AGM. She was then congratulated by all.

The President spoke to Mark Lloyd about the progress with the walled garden, he was handed over to the Property Director, Marc Nelson-Smith who informed me they are checking the wall for structural integrity and are waiting on a survey and costings. Planning applications are in to the Council & English Heritage, which it is believed they will not oppose.

We look forward to the future.

Item 6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman said that he had witnessed first-hand the dedicated work carried out by the Trustees, the staff and other volunteers who give of their time to create a most happy atmosphere in our wonderful Home at Stisted.

Because of Covid-19 we have been unable to meet at the Home therefore the AGM is being held at the Howard Hall, the home of Freemasonry in Braintree. During Lockdown we were able to hold Zoom Meetings, making it possible for us to communicate, due to the professional skills of our President.

The Home Manager, Aggie, continues to breathe new life into the Home having encouraged the many new activities she, Jade Gibson, the other staff members and volunteers have created for the Residents. Facilities for residents to receive visits have been made possible due to 'pods' been erected. Aggie and her staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and happiness of the residents. It is worth going into Facebook to see what happens at the Home. The Trustees are happy to consider all requests for financial assistance for the benefit of the residents.

During the year our President has arranged many of the acquisitions in the grounds of the Home giving much enjoyment and pleasure to the residents. He still expertly looks after our website, www.friendsofpedokc.org.uk, in association with our Membership Secretary, Lloyd Harris.

The Association was founded as the result of much hard work and initial financial gifts by our late President Alan Garner and late Vice-President, Brian Procter. Barry Stedman was with them at the time continuing their foundations. The Essex Provincial Grand Lodge has given much support over many years and we wish the new PGM RW Bro Paul Tarrant well in his new office.

Our neighbour, The Braintree Golf Club, takes great care of their grounds which provide a magnificent panoramic view for our residents.

The Mauchline House Garden continues to be a place of contentment for the residents who enter the twilight of their lives with dementia and it is a place of beauty where other residents, too, are able to enjoy a visit.

The Home always has a most happy atmosphere and the Association maintains a close relationship with the members of staff that do such wonderful work for the benefit of the residents. Each resident is made to feel that Stisted Hall is their own Home.

There is no place like Stisted Hall. There is no place like Home.

Item 7. The Treasurer's Report.

The full copy of the Accounts will be on the website.

Item 8. The Almoner's Report.

Karine Oldacre said that there is currently 41 residents at Stisted Hall. Since our last AGM there has been 36 birthdays, with 20 over 90, the oldest person being Ethel McMillan who was 102 on 24th November. Nada Edwards and Joan Chapman both celebrated their 100th birthdays during the year. Each permanent resident received a birthday card and present from the 'Friends' chosen by Karine.

There have been 5 deaths in the Home. Messages of sympathy and cards were sent to the next of kin and where possible a donation to their chosen charity.

On a more cheerful note on February 14th, each resident was given a box of chocolates and on Easter Sunday they were given a box of small Easter eggs.

Nigel & Karine due to the current situation have been unable to visit the Home and spend time with the residents but have kept in touch by phone and e-mail. Last Christmas due to lockdown the Trustees were unable to attend the usual Christmas Party. However, our President made a video of a special Clearer Production concert for the residents to enjoy and the Friends provided a special lunch with wine.

This year the Christmas Party will be on 12th December 2021 with Nicky and Neil from Clearer Productions. The Home have agreed to choose suitable gifts on our behalf and we will once again finance the special lunch.

Item 9. The Residents' Activities Representative

As already stated our direct involvement with the residents has not been possible due to Covid restrictions, however contact has been maintained with the staff by phone and e-mail. Nigel has arranged for Clearer Productions to entertain the residents for the annual Christmas party but the President has Plan B in place to record the entertainment as was the case last year. Both Nigel and Karine have every intention to call in to the Home on Christmas Day and hoping some normality will return in 2022 resuming the Coffee Mornings with Alan Reynolds providing the entertainment.

In August, Jim Gage the Charity Steward of Joshua Nunn Lodge presented a cheque of £1000 to the Association of Friends, which will pay for the side screens for the larger 'Safari Buggy', resulting in a photoshoot. In September the Stisted Golf Classic took place in good weather, with 50 golfers enjoying the day resulting in a cheque of £500 being presented to the Association of Friends. Thanks were given to David Badger for the publicity for the event, Graham Larke, Andrew Mcleod and Eric Broadbent for all their support, duties on the day and persuading the golfers to dig deeper for the Sweepstake and Raffle. Thanks, were also given to Mike Saffill, Braintree Golf Captain and Freemason who checked the scores, which decided the winners. John Davies Past APGM and twice the overall winner together Peter Hollingsworth APGM presented the awards. Mark Capener, Regional Operations Manager (RNBI), who played and spoke at the dinner about the RNBI Care Homes and PEDOKC in particular. Next years event will be on Monday 6th June.

The 2 Christmas trees, donated by the Friends are due to be delivered.

Item 10. Home Manager's Report

We are awaiting quotations from contactors to build a waterfall in the pond.

We have now refurbished 36 bedrooms; the remaining bedrooms will be redecorated when we receive the new budgets.

Six communal toilets are now completed but shower and bathrooms in Mauchline are out for quotes.

The refurbishment of the corridors in the main house has been delayed due to the current contractor not being double vaccinated, so a new contractor is being resourced.

RNBI signed to support the Government "Kickstart" programme, which allows young people to get work experience. We have created 5 activity coordinator vacancies and managed to fulfil 2. Our team is working very well to support our residents in various activities.

Face to face visiting restarted as normal, if rapid tests are completed prior to visiting.

Visitors who are not relatives must provide evidence of double vaccination using the NHS app.

The Walled Garden Project is currently undergoing planning permission and awaiting further information regarding the wall repairs. A large sum of money has been confirmed by RNBI for the Project, which will be named "The Leslie Hugh Miles Garden".

Our Maintenance Team are researching appropriate garages to store our golf buggies.

The Christmas Bazaar is planned for 15th December in the Marquee, with the Association of Friends Christmas Party on 12th December. The Christmas decorations and lights will be put up on 1st December, so volunteers will be required.

We have had some changes to staffing levels, therefore agency use has increased.

Recruitment has been challenging due to double vaccination status, wages, travelling problems and UK no longer being part of the EU. Mark Lloyd is looking at 'Living Wage'.

The current occupancy is 41. There has been a large influx in enquiries and admissions of late. We are currently slowing down the admission pace to ensure safety. Our rating on carehomes.co.uk has increased to 9.9.

We thank you as always for your continued support, which allows us to ensure our, Residents live fulfilled and meaningful lives.

Item 11. Election of Officers/Trustees

The current Officers/Trustees are willing to remain in place for the next year.

Chairman: Clive Dunnico

Secretary: David Badger

Treasurer: Graham Elvidge

Membership Secretary: Lloyd Harris

Almoner: Karine Oldacre

Residents Activities: Nigel Oldacre

Fete Organiser: Graham Turner

Trustees: Graham Larke, Andrew McLeod, Dennis May

Eric Broadbent proposed that they should all continue in place for the following year.

Malcolm Taylor was willing to second this proposition.

The vote was taken and was unanimously in favour of the proposition.

Item 12. Declaration of Acceptance by Trustees.

This will be taken at the next General Meeting.

Item 13. Appointment of Auditors.

Clive Dunnico proposed that Azets Audit Services (formerly Wilkins Kennedy LLP) of 1 Nelson Street, Southend-on-Sea, to act as the Auditors of the accounts for the next financial year. This was seconded by Nigel Oldacre and the vote on this proposition was unanimous.

Item 14. Any other Business.

1.Thanks, were given for Daniel our Host at Howard Hall, enabling us to hold the AGM, which was greeted by a round of applause.

2.Aggie was asked about the Newsletter. She said it took a lot of time to produce so would not be available until the New Year.

Item 15. Date of the next AGM.

This will be decided at the next Trustees Meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

Signed _____ Date _____