

Parkinson's UK Oxford and District Branch
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
Wednesday 2 March 2016 at 7.15 pm

1 Apologies

Malcolm Benson, Helen Hamlet, Susan Heywood, Margaret Quarterman, Tony and Sheila Russell, Martin and Ros Tims, Mary and Adrian Turner, Jenyth Worsley.

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015

Taken as read.

3 Chair's report

Sally Bromley reported that this has been a busy year and one where we have welcomed many new members. We have enjoyed cream teas, BBQ, lunches, sales, visits, holiday, tango, exercise classes, dance for Parkinson's, voice classes, theatre visits, Fun Run, Oxford Walk, Christmas party, Christmas market visit, Christmas Concert.

Fundraising has exceeded anything we could have imagined. The golf day at Huntercombe was the end of a fine relationship with Huntercombe Golf Club as their charity of the year. In addition we were the charity of the year for Oxford Soroptimists.

We have been the beneficiary of a number of legacies and these have been spent with guidance from PUK. We planned to focus on areas of concern: the needs of our carers, for those living with PD alone, and addressing voice difficulties. We sought guidance from members through group activities in August and September. This has led to us starting up exercise and voice classes. We are also seeking advice in order to set a befriending service in place. We plan to offer respite care so the carer can get a break for a few hours. All these ideas came from that group work.

We put forward a sound proposal for PUK to evaluate a voice research project and, though having it checked out by two directors from PUK, had it rejected. This was a grave disappointment. However, with every cloud having a silver lining, we are hoping that Dr James Cantley who visited us a couple of meetings ago will create a working voice enhancer for our members to pilot. Our links with OPDC are stronger with a great deal of mutual support – our members sign up as research volunteers and our events are well supported by researchers. Links with Brookes are also strong and further research opportunities and Zumba are in the horizon.

Many members were kind enough to pilot First Steps workshops for newly diagnosed people and following their feedback the scheme is up and running regularly in Oxfordshire.

The committee continues to be creative, hard-working and dedicated and I thank them. Lin is leaving the committee and we thank her for her contribution. Special mention must go to Delia who works beyond her remit and represents our branch at many events.

Thanks to Helen and Wendy who do the raffle each week. To Malcolm who organises the 200 club. To Helen who ensures we have a cuppa each meeting. To Clare who organises the taxi service.

Looking ahead we have plans to continue with the exercise and voice classes. We aim to get the befriending service in place. We will decide on good and effective respite care providers and get this up and running. We hope to continue and build on our events this year with additional concert, striving to raise awareness of living with PD.

4 Financial Statement

Carys Redmond, treasurer, announced that more than £82,000 had been raised. The 2015 Oxford Walk yielded £27,000 with a further £55,000 produced from Branch fundraising and donations. She thanked Kit Marriott for all his hard work as fundraiser.

The Branch has been able to subsidise the usual programme of activities, outings and meetings. Donations have been made to research with £15,000 to the GABA project, £5,000 to the Brain Bank and £10,000 to the TRAPping project which was also the beneficiary of the Oxford Walk funds.

5 Secretary's report

Diane Pearson, secretary reported that the branch had welcomed fifty six new members since the 2015 AGM including 37 people with Parkinson's. Many Branch members are not members of the national organisation Parkinson's UK. One of the many advantages of membership is insurance cover for any Parkinson's activities.

6 Election of the 2016 committee

Shirley Jones, England Manager – West took the chair and thanked the committee for its work in raising awareness of Parkinson's and for its consultative style. Voting for the new committee took place, all were agreed.

Chair. Sally Bromley, proposed by Jem Appleton, seconded by Kit Marriott.

Vice Chair. Jem Appleton, proposed by David Salisbury, seconded by Sally Bromley.

Secretary. Diane Pearson, proposed by Jim Sheridan, seconded by Jem Appleton.

Treasurer. Carys Redmond, proposed by Sally Bromley, seconded by Diane Pearson.

Research Advisor. Jim Sheridan proposed by Martin Tims, seconded by David Salisbury.

Fundraiser Kit Marriott, Membership Secretary Ian Pearson, Media and Publicity Officer Paul Mayhew-Archer and Committee members David Salisbury and Martin Tims were proposed en bloc by Wendy Benson seconded by Clare Hayes.

The committee needed to cover new areas of responsibility and additional volunteers, Tom Collins, Caroline George, Nigel Hamilton, George Philip and Jenyth Worsley were proposed by Sally Bromley, seconded by Jem Appleton. Natalia Benjamin had also volunteered at the meeting and was proposed by Sally Bromley, seconded by Jem Appleton.

Following the formal business, wine and cheese was served. Members were invited to give their ideas for fundraising, for Parkinson's Awareness Week and for spending Branch funds.