

**Friends of the Faversham Cottage Hospital and Community Medical Centres**

Registered number 1185067

To support the work of Faversham Cottage Hospital and Community Health Centres by means of voluntary service.

**Annual General Meeting**

**November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5.15pm via Zoom**

**Trustees present:** David Simmons (Chairman) (DS), Sue Grove (Vice Chairman) SG, Michael Moore (Treasurer) MM, Gill Mather GM, Margaret Hibbs MH.

**Other Members Present:** Yvonne Wills, Tim Whishaw, Sue Davidson, Jenny Gurney-Whiting, Cindy and Ted Davis.

**In attendance:** Kerin Austin and Dr Gaurav Gupta (Faversham Medical Practice) and Claire Boraston and Dr Vanessa Short (Newton Place Surgery) and Margaret Ryder.

**1. Chairman's welcome.** The chairman stated this was the first AGM of the new CIO and welcomed the Mayor Cllr Allison Reynolds and representatives of both practices.

**2. Apologies** – Joan Young, Sally Robertson.

**3. Appointment of Trustees**—This being the first AGM all Trustees had stood down but offered themselves for re-election this was approved by the members present. Mrs Jenny Gurney-Whiting offered herself for election there was no other nominations MM proposed Mrs Gurney-Whiting, and this was agreed by all members.

**4. Election of Officers:** All officers had again offered themselves for election namely David Simmons (Chairman), Sue Grove (Vice-Chairman), Mike Moore (Treasurer), Sally Robertson (Membership Secretary), Joan Young (Fundraising), Gill Mather (Equipment Bids).

**4. Appointment of an independent examiner** – MM stated that Mr Nigel Kay had accepted the position of Honorary Independent examiner for 2020/21.

**7. Reports from representatives of both surgeries** – first to speak was Dr Gaurav Gupta, who explained that to say the least the last few months had been very eventful but he was pleased to say that

throughout the Pandemic, the Surgery had remained open. There is though, now a different look to the surgeries, initially patients have a telephone appointment lasting up to 10 minutes, if a Doctor considers it necessary the patient will then be invited to attend the Surgery. The practice at present can only have half the patients in the Surgery at any one time. Dr Gupta went on to report that the X-Ray unit was shut for a short time as the East Kent Hospital Trust had to deploy resources elsewhere. It was now open but no walk-in service available and no chest X-Rays are being done.

DS asked Dr Gupta about the Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) who replied that the MIU in all centres in East Kent had been upgraded to a UTC This change had gone very well and the numbers using the UTC continued to increase.

Ms Claire Boraston and Dr Vanessa Short then spoke from, Newton Place Surgery, Claire stated that the running of the practice was much the same as FMP as far as Covid-19 was concerned but they were pleased to say they had managed to maintain a service. Claire thanked the Friends for providing the ultrasound equipment which unfortunately because of Covid-19 could not be used until recently but she confirmed this was now up and running. She enquired if we would like to now obtain some publicity which was originally planned. Claire Boraston stated the next big thing would be the Flu jab, with regard to the building the Practice is still pursuing the idea of expanding the building over the staff car park.

DS asked Claire Boraston who was providing the ultrasound Sonographer service, Claire confirmed that the contract was with Whitstable Medical Practice. DS also asked how many patients were now on the books Newton Place Surgery? Claire confirmed a figure of approximately 19,000, Kerin Austin confirm FMP at 13,500 making a total of 32,000 for the town some increase of 3000 in 3 years.

Dr Vanessa Short spoke about the research projects continuing at Newton Place Surgery, she was pleased to say that further funding was in place to continue the depression clinic until the end of March. The Practice had also been involved in research regarding Coronavirus, particularly as two care homes that the practice looked after had outbreaks.

Unfortunately, Kerie Exall from the Cottage Hospital had not joined us, but DS said he would try and get a written report and circulate.

**8. Reports from Committee Chair--** Sue Grove gave a update on Fundraising in 2019. We had raised £1,946, the principal contributors being £684 from local pubs doing a Easter basket raffle, £649 from the summer fayre and £404 from a Faversham Mission Brass concert. Expenditure through bids in 2019 included £2,058 2 Hydraulic Couches & scales. £1,134 on a 24 hr Blood pressure monitor and £634 on a handheld Dopplex machine. The Friends had also supplied the Cottage hospital with toiletries in gift bags for patients.

Despite all the difficulties this year we, the Friends did raise £335 from Easter basket raffle and £1295 courtesy of the Park Fish Bar. The Friends have provided the UTC at FMP with a lockable cabinet and Newton Place Surgery with ultrasound at a cost of £35,940.

Sue thanked the Members and people of the town for their support.

**Any other Business--**There was no other business and the meeting closed at 5.50pm with DS thanking all those who attended the Zoom AGM.