

# **LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF LUDLOW COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

## **Annual general Meeting Wednesday 14 May 2025 at St Peter's Church Ludlow**

**Present:** Michael Evans, Yvonne Evans, Paul Rew, Jennifer Gill, John Farley, Fiona Pizzoni, Jeff Walker, Ruth Turner, Steve Catanach

**Members Present 10**

### **Welcome, Introduction of Committee**

#### **Report from Dr Caron Morton**

ME welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Trustees. He invited Dr Caron Morton to speak to the meeting about the Hospital – Station Drive Surgery being responsible for Ludlow and Bishops Castle Hospitals.

CM reported that the Hospital was full with all 27 beds occupied. She explained how the Hospital was an Acute Receiving Hospital, taking patients who no longer needed the resources of Shrewsbury or Telford. The hospital was expanding the services it provided. In spite of the outward appearance of the building the Hospital was in good repair internally. She explained the concept of virtual wards whereby patients are treated at home and monitored remotely thereby avoiding a stay in an Acute.

There was an issue in finding enough frontline staff.

In response to a question as to whether it was possible to get admitted directly to the Hospital rather than via an Acute she pointed out that all GP's had admitting rights and could place people in the Community Hospitals if that was thought the best option.

ME thanked her for updating the meeting and the work she and her team were doing at the Hospital.

### **Apologies**

Hilary Delaney Hall

### **Approval of Minutes of Last AGM held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Minutes had been circulated and approved as a true record

## **Matters Arising**

No matters arising

## **Report of the Co-Chairs**

ME reviewed the past year, mentioning the sad death of Gloria Corfield and praised the huge impact she had had on running the League with her husband Peter. He announced that after three years, firstly as Chairman and then as Co-Chair he was stepping down from the role but would stay on as a Trustee. He thanked his fellow Trustees for the support they had given him. He also thanked those raising significant funds for the League such as Mark Hiles and the Bed Push team and Young Farmers.

ME explained the League, in addition to supporting the Hospital directly, now contributed to other organisations in the area involved in promoting the health and wellbeing of the community including Hands Together, First Responders and dementia support activities at Ludlow Assembly Rooms.

ME mentioned the recent town meeting on health provision in South Shropshire and how the League was to be involved, details would be provided by JG.

ME invited Stuart Thornhill from First Responders to address the meeting.

ST explained how First Responders worked – a volunteer operated facility supporting the Ambulance Service with no cash support from the NHS. They can respond to Ambulance callout when there is a life threatening situation such as a stroke or heart attack. The League's support in buying a new vehicle was vital in keeping the organisation going. There had been problems getting enough volunteers in the past but there were now 2 more coming on stream which will allow more coverage. It is a very local service operating with 5 miles of Ludlow.

JG thanked ME for his contribution particularly since taking over as Chairman, the organisation would probably have folded without him.

She read out a report from Hospital manager, Katy Turton, who was unable to be present. KT thanked the League for their help over the past year outlining some of the purchases. She explained about the new car parking system which had cut down on "rogue" parking freeing up spaces for staff and visitors. She also set out future plans including improvements to the ward to make it more suitable for patients with cognitive problems. Finally she set out those services and clinics which were provided by the Hospital.

JG set out recent developments resulting from the Town Meeting on healthcare in the area. The League had held meetings with representatives of Shropcom and the ICB together with Stuart Anderson. It had been tasked with forming a steering group to represent residents of South Shropshire's concerns to the Health Authorities and the recruitment of a Chair for the Group was in progress. David Sandbach the ex-CEO of the Princess Royal Hospital had produced a report at the League's request outlining the improvements needed to deliver an adequate health service for the area. This involved upgrading the MIU to an UTC, the development of a diagnostic centre on the EcoPark site and ultimately a new hospital. The report outlined how this could be funded. Once this Steering Group is active it would meet regularly with Shropcom/ICB to progress matters.

### **Membership Report**

SC reported a falling membership. Once a dialogue about potential developments at the hospital could be started membership should increase.

Virtually all communication and payment of subscriptions was now done electronically.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Accounts had been circulated and JW gave brief review of major items of income and expenditure. Reserves were substantial at £567,000, JW explained how this was managed on a prudent basis.

### **Resolutions**

#### **Resolution 1**

To receive the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

The resolution was passed

#### **Resolution 2**

To appoint Graham Robinson as Auditors and authorise the Committee of Trustees to fix their remuneration

The Resolution was passed

#### **Resolution 3**

To approve Trustees co-opted since the last AGM – Steve Catanach

The resolution was passed

**Resolution 4**

To re-elect the Trustees retiring by rotation Paul Rew and Jennifer Gill

The resolution was passed

**Resolution 5**

To elect Jennifer Gill and Jeff Walker as Co-Chairs

The resolution was passed.

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There being no further business JG declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm