

Annual General Meeting and Annual Members' Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 30 September 2021
via Lifesize Livestreaming

AGM21/001 Welcome

Mark Addison, the Trust Chairman, welcomed everyone who was viewing the virtual meeting via Lifesize livestreaming. He said that 2020/21 had been an extraordinary year for the NHS as we were engulfed with the Covid-19 pandemic. He noted that the NHS had never been under such sustained pressure and recognised that the pandemic had hit hardest those who are most vulnerable.

He thanked all the staff at the hospital who had been brilliant throughout the pandemic, and despite a relentless workload they continued to show resilience, empathy, and creativity. He also thanked the generous and supportive communities and said that the hospital was proud to serve them. He also thanked the donors, Governors, volunteers, and Friends of DCH. He also extended his thanks to his Non-Executive Director colleagues and the Executive Team. He extended his congratulations to David Cove, who had recently been re-elected as Lead Governor.

He welcomed Margaret Blankson to the Board, who had joined this year. He also said farewell to Ian Metcalfe who would be leaving the Board in November, and to Inese Robotham, Chief Operating Officer, who would be leaving the Trust in a few days.

AGM21/002 Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21 Review of the year

Patricia Miller, Chief Executive Officer, spoke of the challenges the Trust had faced in 2020/21 and highlighted the Trust's achievements despite these challenges, and thanked the dedication of the hospital staff. She also presented key updates on the Trust's performance over the last year, outlined the focus for the Trust moving forward and gave an overview of the Dorset Integrated Care System.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive Officer for her report and noted that although the hospital had largely been responding to the pandemic this year, it was also striving forward in many ways.

Quality Account

Emma Hoyle, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, spoke to the quality of care delivered over the last year and highlighted the hospital's numerous achievements. She noted the improvements in patient experience and patient safety and highlighted the positive outcomes of audits this year.

Annual Accounts 2020/21

Paul Goddard, Chief Finance Officer, provided an overview of the financial

results of the Trust, noting that the last year had been unprecedented. He detailed that the hospital had ended the year with a surplus of £52,000 and that this year had seen the biggest capital expenditure in the Trust's history. He gave details of the Trust's income, expenditure, and investments, paying particular attention to Covid-19 specific spending.

AGM21/003 Integrated Care System and DCH Strategy Alignment

Nick Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Director of Strategy, Transformation and Partnerships explained Integrated Care Systems (ICS), and outlined the ambitions and benefits of the Dorset ICS. He noted that within this framework there would be a strong focus on working with our communities. He said that the Trust's recently launched strategy aligned with the ICS strategy, with the aim of making west Dorset healthier for all.

Site Development Plan Update

Nick Johnson noted that work had begun on the new multi-storey carpark and explained that this consolidated existing surface carparking and would allow more space for clinical services, including an expanded Emergency Department and ICU. He said there would be opportunity for public comment and engagement.

AGM21/004 Staying Safe This Winter

Marianne Docherty, Respiratory Consultant, gave a presentation on staying safe this winter. She highlighted the importance of stopping smoking, staying active and maintaining a healthy weight, getting vaccinated and continuing good hygiene practices.

AGM21/005 DCH An Attractive Place to Work

Dawn Harvey, Chief People Officer, reported on how DCH adds value and social value through employment. She outlined that the ability to attract and retain staff was the biggest challenge for the NHS, and that this was amplified at smaller trusts like DCH. She explained how the Trust was addressing this and noted the feedback from staff surveys.

AGM21/006 Lead Governor's Report

Dr David Cove, Lead Governor, reported on the activities undertaken by the Council of Governors during the year 2020/21 and said that the Governors continued to work effectively through virtual meetings. He was particularly impressed by how the hospital was coping with the pandemic. He also said that the Trust was fortunate to have an outstanding board of Executive and Non-Executive Directors, under the capable leadership of the Chair and CEO. He welcomed the newly elected governors to the role and congratulated those who had been re-elected. A copy of the Lead Governor's report is available on request.

AGM21/007 Questions from Members and the Public

The following question was received prior to the meeting:

"My question is why doesn't the Trust have a sustainable travel and health plan? Rather than having a sustainable travel plan, it is building a multi storey car park which is only a short term solution, trees are being cut

down, the green field has already been tarmacked over and there are very few green spaces. With the climate emergency we are facing, we need to encourage a more sustainable travel plan. In addition evidence is growing for the importance of green spaces for health and wellbeing. I am very disappointed with the Trust's current strategy."

- Sandra Hood, Diabetes Specialist Dietitian

Nick Johnson responded that the Trust does have a sustainable travel plan and agreed that sustainable travel needs to be encouraged more. He said that the Trust's work on health inequalities focussed on wider social determinants of health and includes a commitment to green plans. He added that the provision of the new car park does not preclude the development of wider sustainability plans and that the Trust had recently invested in a new Sustainable Transport manager. As part of the carpark plans the Trust would be replanting approximately 170 trees which were more efficient at drawing carbon dioxide out of the air than those they will replace, so will be a net benefit to the system. The carpark would also quadruple Dorchester's electric car charging points. He added that the Trust continued to work with the Council to stress the need for improved transport links for rural locations. Finally, he said that the Trust was working to ensure more accessible green spaces on-site, in addition to the wildflower meadow.

The Chair added that he would be delighted to give Sarah a tour of the wildflower meadow and would welcome her joining the Trust's Sustainability Group.

No other questions were received in advance from members or members of the public.

AGM21/008 Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.