

**GUILDFORD AND SOUTH SURREY BRANCH  
OF PARKINSON'S UK**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Held on 22 February 2022 in Shalford Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

- 1. Attendance: some 50+ Members attended in person and 12 joined the meeting by zoom, conducted by Sharyn Bullen.  
Mr Alastair Jack Parkinson's UK was in attendance.**
- 2. Apologies: Ron and Maureen Wride. Myra Newnes-Smith attended via zoom.**
- 3. The Minutes of the AGM held on 23 February 2021 (published in the Park) were approved.**
- 4. . The Chair, Niki Tompkinson, opened the meeting by welcoming the strong support for the Branch as evidenced by the number of members present. Her valedictory report on the year 2021-22 had been posted on the website, but she highlighted a few noteworthy details. First, she commended the Branch committee which had continued working throughout the year despite Covid constraints and lockdowns. Every effort had been made to maintain exercise and therapeutic classes with zoom, and experimental hybrid Branch Meetings (in person plus zoom) had proved workable. We had all gained new skills. As soon as it was permissible, plans were made for a Summer Picnic in August and a Christmas Lunch at the Rugby Club in December 2021.(Over 90 people attended).**

**Group meetings (on zoom) for *Newly-Diagnosed* people with Parkinson's had been very successful in offering support to members otherwise hard to reach. Likewise Carers' Groups meeting on zoom were much appreciated, especially by those who found themselves housebound by their responsibilities. WAGS had been reincarnated as a *Friendship Group* since a majority were no longer of "working age".**

**Membership had remained stable at about 360, and it was estimated that about a third (approx 120) were active members taking part in exercise classes, Parkinsons Voices, or social events. The Chair expressed concern that two-thirds of the Members were not actively engaged ; she hoped greater efforts would be made to find out what**

**their needs/expectations might be. New ideas were always welcome and the new committee looked forward to receiving suggestions. Finally, she paid tribute to John Oldham, Membership Secretary, who was also stepping down. His patience in dealing with the relationship with PUK was commendable as was his invaluable contribution to the day-to-day work of the Committee.**

**Niki was stepping down after four years as Chair - a role which she had enjoyed very much despite the totally unforeseen challenges of the pandemic during 2020, 2021 and 2022!**

*The full text of the Chair's Report is filed with the Minutes and posted on the website.*

#### **5. Treasurer's Report for the Financial year ended December 2021.**

**Steve Heron presented a comprehensive financial report illustrated with clear diagrams which spoke louder than words. The financial position was very strong - partly thanks to some generous donations, partly to good housekeeping and partly to Members' (and their friends) lucrative fund-raising activities. As some Branch funds earmarked for respite care in 2021 had not been taken up, monies were available for an extended period into 2022. He had budgeted to spend £77k in the current year. It was noted that 63% of the Branch expenditure was in support (by subsidy) of exercise classes.**

**The One Hundred Club now boasted nearly 200 members and the Treasurer announced that as of today (22 February 2022) the prize money for the three top draws would be doubled.**

*The full text of the Treasurer's Report is filed with the Minutes and posted on the website.*

#### **6. Election of Branch Committee.**

In accordance with Committee practice, Mr Alistair Jack (Parkinson's UK) took over the meeting and Niki Tompkinson vacated the Chair.

Alistair Jack congratulated the Branch on its successful recovery from the constraints of Covid and the sustained interest that had brought so many people to the AGM. He mentioned several other Branches that had withered and died under the pressure.

Nominations were called for the lead Members of the Committee - Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, each to be proposed and seconded by a Member. The vote was by show of hands.

**Chair: David Lowther prop. by Valerie Box 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharyn Bullen**  
*(duly elected unopposed)*

**Vice Chairman: Hilary Austin prop. by Nicholas Henderson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Niki Tompkinson** *(duly elected unopposed)*

**Treasurer: Steve Heron prop. Sharyn Bullen and 2<sup>nd</sup> Valerie Box**  
*(duly elected unopposed)*

**Secretary: Sharyn Bullen prop. Niki Tompkinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hilary Austin**  
*(duly elected unopposed)*

## **7. Election of Members of the Committee 2022-23**

**Current members eligible for re-election are : Anne Folkes (Editor, The Park) Margaret Westwood (Minutes Secretary) and Myra Newnes-Smith (Carers). In addition, Keith Black was nominated as Membership Secretary and Deborah Gaskell (Communications). That the above nominees be *elected en bloc* was proposed by John Oldham and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Margaret Firmiston (*agreed nem.con.*)**

## **8. Any Other Business.**

**There being no further Business, Mr David Lowther took the Chair.**

*Pending the serving of tea, cakes and the presentations to Niki and John, Amanda Dodson, Parkinson's Nurse Specialist, gave a short address on her work based at Milford Hospital.*

### **Amanda Dodson**

Amanda pointed out that there were leaflets on the table for a PKG watch a number of which had been purchased by the Royal Surrey. These watches would be worn by individuals with Parkinson's for a week and data collected. These data can be processed by the Parkinson's Nurses to determine whether the correct drugs management plans are in place.

Amanda explained that she is currently in charge of only 500 patients which has resulted in slow response times. She explained that she has

now been joined by a new colleague, Dawn, and she is hopeful that two of them will be able to respond more quickly in future.

Questions were asked on what was the correct telephone number to contact Amanda and Dawn? This was confirmed to be one documented in The Park.

### **Presentations to Niki Tomkinson and John Oldham**

On behalf of the whole membership Steve presented both Niki and John with flowers, cards and gifts. Both indicated they were very touched. Niki stated that while she would be a good ex-chairman and go quietly, she expressed a wish to remain upon the distribution list for The Park and explained that she would read it thoroughly to see progress within the branch.