

GUILDFORD AND SOUTH SURREY BRANCH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 2.00 pm

1. Welcome by the Chair. David Lowther was pleased to see a good number of Members present in Shalford Village Hall. Two representatives from Parkinson's UK Steven Hooper, Finance Director, and Jack Grant, Campaigns Officer, were in attendance.

2. Apologies for absence: Keith and Valerie Black; Fran and Colin Dorling.

3. Minutes of the AGM February 2022: approved.

4. Treasurer's Report: Steve Heron tabled a detailed report of the Branch finances for the year ended 31 December 2022. The analysis showed a successful year in terms of the aims and objectives of the Branch but he warned that without two substantial donations the situation would have been less secure. The Committee had endorsed the recommendation in the Budget for 2023 that fees for the exercise classes, which are heavily subsidised by the Branch, should be raised by a modest £1 per class. He reiterated that fundraising must be seen as a priority if the Branch is to continue subsidising therapeutic classes and social events.

The report was received warmly by the meeting with a vote of thanks to Steve Heron for his sterling work on behalf of the Branch.

5. Report of the Committee by the Chair: David Lowther felt the year had gone well with an increased membership (currently 380) and active participation stable at about 120 (approx. 1/3). The Treasurer's report had demonstrated the range of activities/events members can take part in should they choose to do so, but he stressed that not all members were ready or able to become engaged with the Branch. The Committee also favoured a flexible approach to membership: ease of geographical access was more important than a notional Branch boundary.

Communications have been substantially improved; in addition to the Chair's monthly Newsletter, a lively magazine, *The Park* (published three times a year) the Branch supported a newly-constructed website, new information leaflets, and banners promoting the activities on offer. Considerable effort had been made to spread the news and hopefully attract new members. He thanked the Committee for their continuing support and commitment to the Branch.

6. Election of Lead volunteers:

The Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary - to serve for the year ending 31 December 2023. Jack Grant, PUK Campaign Officer, presided over the Election of:

- **Chair: David Lowther** (nom. Hilary Austin; sec. Olivia Ames- Lewis)
- **Vice Chair: Hilary Austin** (nom. Deborah Gaskell; sec Paul Dowson)
- **Treasurer: Steve Heron** (nom. Deborah Gaskell; sec. Paul Dowson)
- **Secretary: Sharyn Bullen** (nom. Deborah Gaskell, sec. Myra Newnes- Smith)

(All elected *Nem Con*)

7. Election of the Branch Committee 2023.

Anne Folkes Editor of *The Park*, was standing down from the Committee but all other serving members were eligible for election and nominated *en bloc* by Valerie Box (sec. Olivia Ames Lewis):

Keith Black (Membership Secretary), Deborah Gaskell (Communications),

Myra Newnes- Smith (Carers' issues) , Margaret Westwood (Minutes & Meetings Secretary).

The Business meeting closed at 2.45 pm.

Minutes taken by *Margaret Westwood*