

**Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting
Wessex Coeliac UK, Voluntary Support Group
Crosfield Hall, Romsey
Saturday 23 April 2016**

1. Introductions

Barbara Bainbridge, Chairman, welcomed members to the group's 14th AGM. Barbara asked if coeliac members had registered and collected their set of official AGM papers.

2. Apologies

Barbara introduced Judy Allen, Secretary who advised members that Caroline Benjamin, the Membership Secretary, held a list of members' apologies. Judy asked if any members knew of any further apologies to see Caroline to add their names to the list.

3. Minutes of the AGM of 18 April 2015

Judy asked members if the minutes of the AGM on 18 April 2015 were an accurate record. Proposed by Shirley James and seconded by Julie Guppy, this was agreed.

4. Group Organiser's Report

Barbara introduced Pauline Kidd, Group Organiser, who advised members that the formal annual report was in the documents handed out at registration. Pauline then summarised the year when she said the committee had worked tirelessly. The main event had been the Food Fair at Winchester Guildhall in October 2015. This bi-annual event had gone from strength to strength and there had been a record number of exhibitors and attendees.

The success of that event had prompted the committee to try a different format for the 2016 AGM when a few small local producers of Gluten Free Food had been invited to attend giving members of the Group the opportunity to meet local suppliers and for the traders to learn firsthand of members' requirements.

Other events in 2015 had included a Cookery Demonstration by Glutafin in November and a dinner in February 2016 at the refurbished Restaurant at Eastleigh College. Pauline asked members if they had any suggestions for future events to let her know.

In May 2015 the committee had supported Awareness Week with events at Southampton General Hospital and Asda at Chandlers Ford and had been involved with a new venture at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital Winchester; having a presence at their quarterly Coeliac Evening Clinics. In September two members of the committee had attended Coeliac UK Volunteers' Conference in London which enabled the members to meet the Coeliac UK Team and very usefully to network with neighbouring support groups.

The group was in urgent need of a website editor, a vital role in communication and Pauline asked if any member who could spare an hour or so a month to do the work could talk to Kevin who would explain the role in more detail. Pauline also made a plea for new blood on the committee to enable the group to survive.

Finally, Pauline expressed her sincere thanks to the committee and their partners, plus all the volunteers at the Food Fair, for their fantastic support during the year.

5. End of Year Accounts

Barbara introduced Alan Noble, Treasurer, to present the Annual Accounts. Alan referred members to two statements of accounts at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the Annual Report. On Appendix 2, the Income & Expenditure Statement, he explained that the payment of £50.00 had been the donation to Cancer Research in memory of Audrey Fleming as advised at the 2015 AGM. "Other" expenditure had included the cost of video equipment and camera, the banner which members would have seen at the Food Fair, the cost of attendance by the Red Cross at the Food Fair and an exceptional refund made to a stall holder unable to attend the Food Fair.

On Appendix 3, the Movement of Funds Statement, he drew members' attention to the profit made on the Food Fair of £2,142.91 which would continue to make the group financially stable and make it possible to pay the cost of the Guildhall Winchester in advance if required for the 2017 Food Fair.

In answer to a question about the Income and Expenditure for the 2015 AGM, Alan did not have the information but promised to look into figures.

Proposed by Richard Tarrant and seconded by Malcolm Brook, the accounts were accepted subject to clarification of the income and expenditure for the AGM.

After the meeting Alan looked into the figures and advised that in 2014 a surety cheque to the value of £30 for the hall hire was issued for the 2015 AGM which was included in the 2014 accounts. This was returned to the group as not needed after the 2015 AGM. As a result the expenditure for 2015 had to be reduced by £30 but as there was only £15.14 further expenditure, this led to a minus figure for the AGM of -£14.86.

6. Election of Committee Members

Barbara advised members that the group had sadly lost Dave Freeman earlier in the year and that Janet Day had agreed to take on Dave's role as New Member's contact. Veronica O'Donnell had left the committee as she had moved back to Ireland. Members of the committee were pleased to have one new volunteer to join them, Rhiannon Leighton. All other committee members elected last year, Pauline Kidd, Barbara Bainbridge, Judy Allen, Alan Noble, Kevin Sessions, Wendy Johnston and Janet Day were willing to stand again.

Anne Sanderson, GI Clinical Nurse Specialist at Southampton General Hospital, agreed to act as independent witness to the election. Voting was undertaken en bloc and the committee was duly elected for the year.

7. Any other business

i) Thanks to the committee

A member took the opportunity to formally thank the committee for organising the AGM.

ii) Food Fairs

In answer to a question from a member about the frequency of Food Fairs held by the group, Pauline explained that there was too much work involved in organising a Food Fair to hold them more often than every two years.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.00 am.