

**Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**Coeliac UK Wessex Group**  
**St James Road Methodist Church Hall Southampton**  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**1. Introduction**

Barbara Bainbridge, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the Group's 15<sup>th</sup> AGM. Barbara enquired if all members had registered and additional copies of the official AGM papers were handed out to those who had forgotten to bring them along.

Barbara introduced the six stand holders and encouraged all present to visit them and buy some delicious food after the AGM.

**2. Apologies**

Barbara informed everyone that unfortunately Judy was unable to attend as she had been very unwell and was presently still in hospital. We had a card if anyone wished to sign. In Judy's absence the minutes would be taken by Janet.

Apologies received from Judy and Norman Allen, Jennifer Caldwell and Ann Longman.

**3. Minutes of AGM 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016**

Barbara asked members if the minutes of the AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 were an accurate record. Proposed by Malcolm Brook and seconded by Judy Guppy, this was agreed.

**4. Group Organiser's Report**

Barbara introduced Pauline Kidd, Group Organiser, who advised members the formal annual report was included in the documentation sent out with the official AGM papers. Pauline then summarised the year, beginning with a thank you for three new committee members volunteering during the year. Events during the year included a dinner at Eastleigh College in February attended by 45 members and guests who thoroughly enjoyed the excellently prepared food. We also had the opportunity to talk to the students who were learning about the safe preparation and serving of gluten free food.

In April we held our AGM/Speaker's Morning with 114 in attendance. After the AGM Shirley James, Gastrointestinal Nurse Specialist at Lymington Hospital, informed members and their guests what was new and in the news about Coeliac Disease. An excellent talk for both newly diagnosed and people who had been diagnosed as coeliac for many years. We were supported by seven small local gluten free businesses selling their products.

May was Awareness Week, although events covered most of May. We started with a Trolley Dash around the wards at Winchester Hospital organised by Coeliac Sister, Christine Whitehead. The aim was to challenge medical and administrative staff about the support given to coeliacs when inpatients. We had a stand in the foyer at Lymington Hospital organised by Shirley James. Shirley had advertised the event well which aimed to give visitors the chance to sample gluten free food and ask any questions about coeliac disease and the activities of the Wessex Group. Next came Gift and Gain Days organised by Waitrose stores at Romsey, Chandlers Ford, Locks Heath and Winchester. The events provided an opportunity for shoppers to sample gluten free products available at the stores and to learn about the activities of the Wessex Group.

In September we had our very popular Fish and Chip Quiz Evening at North Baddesley Village Hall organised by Alan Noble and assisted by Kevin Sessions. Over 60 members and guests enjoyed an entertaining and challenging quiz and great gluten free fish and chips, provided by Sam Spelling.

In November 3 committee members braved the cold and rain and attended the Coeliac UK Volunteers' Conference in Reading.

In November Juvela put on an excellent Cookery Demonstration at Badger Farm Community Centre with just over 70 people in attendance.

Our final get together of the year was arranged by Sunrise Care Home in Bassett who kindly provided an Afternoon Tea with Carols.

Finally Pauline thanked everyone for their support in making the events a success and expressed her sincere thanks to the Committee and their partners, for all their hard work during the year. A special thank you was given to our long serving Treasurer, Alan.

## **5. End of Year Accounts**

Barbara introduced Alan Noble, outgoing Treasurer, to present the Annual Accounts. Alan referred members to the two statements of accounts at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the Annual Report and immediately apologised for an error. Appendix 1 figures differ by £70 due to an omission of £70 which should have been shown under Income for Stall fees at the 2016 AGM thus the final correct figure for Income is £5846.65. No questions were raised therefore Alan proposed the Accounts and these were seconded by Malcolm Brook. Vote taken and accounts approved with no objections.

## **6. Election of Committee Members**

Barbara advised members that they would have read in the official AGM papers and following Pauline's report, that Alan had decided to stand down as Treasurer at the beginning of the year, and the role was taken over by Roger Kidd who was co-opted to the Committee. Barbara also thanked Alan for his hard work over the years and expressed gratitude that it was his intention to stand for election on the Committee. All last year's committee members were prepared to stand for election and Barbara asked those present to stand. Shirley James agreed to act as an independent witness to the election. Voting was undertaken en bloc and the committee was duly elected for the year.

## **7. Any other business**

There being no other business Barbara closed the official meeting at 10.50 am.