

**Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Coeliac UK Wessex Group  
Valley Park Community Centre  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 11 am**

### **Introduction**

Pauline Kidd, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the Group's 18<sup>th</sup> AGM, albeit delayed due to two years' of Covid lockdown. She also welcomed the stand holders, Abasing Bakes and Scent & Fortitude Aromatherapy. Pauline advised that, following the AGM, Caroline Benjamin would give a presentation concerning Natasha's Law, and that Caroline would be happy to take questions on any aspect of dietary legislation for people with Coeliac disease.

### **Apologies**

The group's secretary, Janet Day, advised that the only apology received had been from Committee member Wendy Johnston, and that there were no other apologies to record.

### **Minutes of AGM 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Pauline asked members if the Minutes of the AGM held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were an accurate record. Proposed by Barbara Bainbridge, and seconded by Paul Kirkpatrick, this was agreed.

### **Group Organiser's Report**

Pauline explained that, due to the pandemic, the Support Group has not been able to hold an AGM since 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019, resulting in there being no AGM in 2020 or 2021. Consequently, Pauline felt it best to give just a brief summary of events held during 2019 and the early part of 2020.

During 2019, 5 events were held: the Annual Dinner at Wellow Golf Club; Fish and Chips Quiz Night at Hedge End; the AGM; Cookery Demonstration by Middleton's; and the biennial Food Fair at Winchester Guildhall. We did manage to hold the Annual Dinner at Wellow Golf Club in February 2020 before lockdown on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. All events were well attended, and the Group received positive feedback.

The Group attended the monthly Newly Diagnosed Coeliac Clinics at Southampton Hospital, and the quarterly clinics at Winchester Hospital, during 2019 and the first quarter of 2020. We also had Stands at Southampton, Winchester and Lymington Hospitals for Awareness Week in 2019. With the Pandemic still well and truly dominating our lives in 2020, the Committee decided we needed to think differently to stay in touch with our members. We therefore started holding monthly coffee, cake and chat Zoom meetings on Saturday mornings. It was nice to be able to spend a couple of hours just chatting and advertise the Group was still running, and available to help, especially as Salisbury Group unfortunately folded.

Pauline thanked all the Committee, especially our Secretary Janet and Treasurer Roger, together with everyone's respective families, for all their hard work, without whom we would not be able to have a Wessex Support Group.

Pauline closed her report with a very special 'thank you' to Judy Allen, who has tirelessly been the Group's Secretary for 19 years before handing over the baton, during the pandemic, to Janet. From us all, Judy, a heartfelt thanks.

## **End of Year Accounts**

The accounts for 2019 and 2020 had been circulated with the AGM notice, and members had plenty of opportunity to examine the figures. Roger confirmed end of year financial returns had been submitted to Coeliac UK for 2019, 2020 and 2021, and that the balance of the bank account as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 was £4,808.23.

Due to Covid, the Group could not hold any face-to-face events during 2021, therefore no expenditure had been incurred. We were, however, very fortunate to receive a donation of £400 from the widow of one of our members, who stressed she would like the money to stay with the Wessex Group, as her late husband had enjoyed attending numerous functions over the years. Roger sought suggestions on how best this donation could be spent, either by email or advising a Committee member.

No questions were raised.

Proposed by Keith Day and seconded by Karen Kirkpatrick, the accounts were approved with no objections.

## **Election of Committee Members**

Pauline advised that the following Committee members were prepared to stand for re-election: Caroline Benjamin, Katie Bittlestone, Janet Day, Wendy Johnston, Theresa Kemp, John Kenshole, Pauline Kidd, and Roger Kidd. Voting was undertaken *en bloc*, proposed by Stephen McClelland and seconded by Keith Day. There were no objections, and the Committee was duly elected for the forthcoming year.

Pauline mentioned that new Committee members would be very welcome.

## **Any other business**

Pauline advised that Judy Allen was a founder Committee member when the group was set up in September 2002, and gave a *resumé* of Judy's hard work and dedication to the Group as Secretary. Pauline thanked Judy and presented her with a garden voucher and card from her fellow Committee members. Judy thanked everyone for the gift.

A question from the floor was about future events. Pauline confirmed that the group's next event would be the Annual Dinner at Wellow Golf Club on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July, arriving for 6.30 pm. She also mentioned that a Quiz Night would be arranged for the Autumn, but confirmed that there would be no more Food Fairs at Winchester Guildhall, due to the cost of hiring the Guildhall.

There being no other business, Pauline closed the official meeting at 11.40 am.