



# Bright Hope

in North West Leicestershire

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of  
Hospice Hope trading as  
Bright Hope in North West Leicestershire  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation no. 1169561

**Members present:** Peter and Kate Last; Lisa McMenamin; Stewart and Jan Shepherd; Angus Bennion; Laura Mackie; Gill Hoult; Delyth Perry; Lesley Notghi; Jean Harrison; Brian Williams; Roy Stobbs.

**Non members present:** Bryonie Mellor; Jack Fargher; Munroe Blair-Park; Julie Kydd; Sheila Yates; Jo Pickering; Jackie White; Helen Morley; Liz Robson;

**Staff present:** Glen Burn; Callie Painter; David Ross; Louise Barwell; Matt Buckley; Lizzie Buswell; Paula Brotherhood; Megan McMenamin; Stephen Walker.

Angus Bennion opened the meeting welcoming everyone and thanking them for their time. He indicated that he had been asked some 5 years ago about joining the board of trustees and it had taken quite a while to decide, but he was very glad that he had as he could now see first hand the work of the charity and the benefits to the community.

## 1. Appointment of chairperson for the AGM

Angus Bennion had offered to chair the meeting. This was proposed by Jan Shepherd, seconded by Gill Hoult with all in favour.

## 2. Minutes of the previous meeting held 12 August 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held 12 August 2024 had been available for everyone to read on the website. Jean Harrison proposed they were accepted, Lisa McMenamin seconded with all in favour. At this point, Angus handed over to Peter Last for the financial reports.

## 3. Reports and accounts

Peter reported that he considered the accounts were in good shape. All of the costs to restore Hope House and to set the services up at Bright Hope House had been budgeted for. Over the year, there was a net cash outflow of £46,000, with an income of £258,000, (£160,000 of that being from trusts and grants.) The expenditure of £303,000 was as expected.

Peter gave a few interesting figures showing the costs expected in future years for the charity – worked out that in total, we need £1000 per day to keep all of the services going and so he suggested that our focus needs to be on our Corporate giving and fundraising in order to continue to offer the services we provide.

## 4. Auditors

Peter confirmed that the charity does not require a formal audit due to its income level and therefore there is no need to appoint auditors, but the charity continues to require an external examination in accordance with the Charity Commission requirements. This had been done over recent years by Jack Fargher. As a charity, we are very grateful to Jack for undertaking this work for us.

## 5. Appointment of Charity Trustees and Officers

5.1 Appointment of Trustees. Since the 2024 AGM, Amanda Makemsom has resigned due to pressure of work. Kate Last, one of our longest serving trustees also stepped down at the end of 2024 after many years of faithful service to the charity. One new trustee was appointed after the date of the 2024 AGM – Michelle Holdcroft. Upon appointment as Chair



- 5.2 Re-election of trustees every three years – our constitution indicates that all trustees are elected every three years. Only one trustee is due to be re-elected at this meeting and that is Dr Lesley Notghi. Her reappointment was proposed by Stewart Shepherd, seconded by Roy Stobbs with all in favour.
- 5.3 Officers were appointed last year at the AGM. However, Peter Last is stepping down at the 2025 AGM and we, therefore, need to appoint a new treasurer at this meeting. We are pleased to confirm that Angus Bennion has agreed to take over that role from Peter and we welcome him to that position. As a CIO, we do not need to have any appointed positions, however from a practical point of view, we do need a treasurer and secretary. It was, therefore, proposed that Angus is appointed as treasurer by Jan Shepherd, seconded by Jean Harrison with all in favour.

At this point, Angus thanked Peter for all the work he has done for the charity over a considerable number of years and presented him with a gift to express our thanks.

Friends of Bright Hope in North West Leicestershire are able to nominate trustees. No nominations have been received for the post of a trustee.

**6. Proposal – to amend our CIO Constitution to reflect the trading name of the charity from Hospice Hope (legal name) to Hospice Hope trading as Bright Hope in North West Leicestershire, along with other necessary amendments to the Constitution.**

The proposal to make the necessary amendments to the CIO Constitution was proposed by Jan Shepherd, seconded by Laura Mackie with all in favour. The amendments made were to reflect the trading name and to give detail of where current trustees names could be found, points number 2 and 12 of the Constitution.

**7. Report – a strategic update**

Our four committees are made up of staff and trustees working together, sometimes with external expertise and sometimes with appropriate volunteers. They meet monthly and report back to the full board of trustees at their regular monthly meetings. Each of them deals with a specific aspect of the charity's organisation and legal responsibilities. Laura, at that point, highlighted the fact that one of our trustees has stepped down very recently, Delyth Perry. Delyth had been leading much of the external fundraising and we are so grateful to her for all her efforts (and her team, of course). She was presented with a gift to say thank you for her service at this point.

Laura Mackie updated attendees on the aims, objectives and strategic direction of Bright Hope in North West Leicestershire, its recent successes and short and long-term objectives.

Laura highlighted that, in the undercurrent of despair that is encountered every time we read a paper or watch the news, that the charity offers the possibility for us to "Be the change". She is confident that we are shining a light on the love and goodness that can be seen in the work that our wonderful staff and amazing volunteers (of whom we have currently 106) are doing.

We have worked hard to extend our services; to build relationships, to develop our team, to become more sustainable and grow our impact. This cannot be done alone and she listed names of individuals and companies in North West Leicestershire that are sharing in our



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mission. We have many local companies and organisations now working in partnerships with us and are confident that the best is yet to come.

Laura introduced some of our staff team and gave them opportunity to share one thing that has been special to them since they joined the team.

She shared details of how we are using new fundraising strategies, encouraging partnerships within the business community, setting up business clubs and events that can be shared with us or used as stand alone events for businesses. The work is showing some reward already as we are in line for 5 awards at the moment including the Kings Award for voluntary services.

She then handed over to Matt Buckley, our Care Services Manager to give an update on current services at Bright Hope House. Matt indicated his pride in the services team and the progress that has been made during the year.

In the first six months of this year we have:

- Provided 956 day care sessions to 130 individuals
- Delivered 107 sessions of Wayback to wellness
- Received 156 referrals to our services
- Provided 1497 places at a Support Café for 72 individuals
- Increased the number of service users from 65 to 350 since 2020.

The counselling service has been completely revamped and Matt handed over to Megan Rowe Jones to bring us all up to date on the changes. Megan has implemented the change from contracted counsellors to one permanent counsellor. The contracts were wound down so that no client was left part way through their required number of sessions. Megan is working with several Universities to enable her to use volunteer counsellors who are completing their training and have to do sessions on a voluntary basis as part of their training. She now has 14 student counsellors working with her and together with Megan, they provide 35 appointments per week. 550 counselling sessions have been provided to 81 clients during the first six months of this year.

Partnerships that have been made during the year since the 2024 AGM to provide more service are continuing and we are pleased that we have utilised one of the days when Day Care is not available to provide the bereavement service (with LOROS); Connections Café; Chat Football Coalville at Coalville Football Club; Walk and Talk; Seated exercises and a singing café – these are all services for guests to join. We have made many corporate partnerships through the Business breakfasts, Business Clubs and networking. We thank all those companies and organisations that have partnered with us during the year and trust that these will grow in the coming years.

## 8. Any other business

No other matter of business had been requested. Therefore the meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to all who had attended, to all volunteers, members and friends, partners for their support both on an ongoing basis and tonight at the meeting.

Jan Shepherd  
Secretary of Bright Hope in North West Leicestershire

24 September 2025