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**The Braveheart Association**

**11th Annual General Meeting 20th October 2015**

**The Sensory Centre, Camelon**

**Minutes**

**Attendance**

Present:

Gordon Thomson (Chairperson), Anne Black (Braveheart Manager), Eva Asante, Eva Finlayson, Maureen Forbes, Charlie Colliar, Brian Robertson, Ian Parker, Molly Priestly, Robert Sneddon, Nahid Sabir

Apologies:

Jean Glen, Helen Reid, Janette Broadfoot, Muriel Clark, Stan Stewart,

Helen Cunningham, Elizabeth Holden, Paula Mifsud, Jeanette Horsburgh,

Joan Sannachan, Carol Lennie, David Bremner, Clare Tucker, Mary Westall,

Tom Kelly, Linda Stock, Maureen Mac Millan.

Gordon Thomson welcomed everyone to Braveheart’s 11th AGM and introduced Anne Black who led a team presentation on the work of Braveheart.

Contributions from Eva Finlayson (Walking Development Officer) Charlie Colliar (Volunteer Walk Leader) Maureen Forbes (Support Worker) and Eva Asante (Optimise Development Officer) gave some insight into the aims and objectives of the walking and mentoring programmes

Anne highlighted the major successes of Braveheart’s year:

* A new website was created
* More volunteers were recruited and trained
* A service consultation was carried out involving volunteers, partners and service users
* The Optimise Programme received RSPH Accreditation
* Investing in Volunteers Award was renewed
* Numbers of people using Braveheart’s services increased to 600+
* A strategic plan was developed

Funding successes;

* Falkirk Partnership Innovation Fund
* Supporting Communities Programme
* The Robertson Trust
* Voluntary Action Fund
* Sons of the Rock
* The Saturday Hospital Fund

Anne suggested an increasing need for Braveheart services due to

* Austerity
* Rising age of the population
* People Living longer but not healthier
* 46% of Scots living with at least one long term condition
* Social isolation

Future Plans include

* Developing Optimise community sessions
* Increasing flexibility of our service delivery

Anne thanked the volunteers, staff, Board of Trustees and Funders

Gordon thanked the team for an enlightening presentation and formally opened the AGM business

**AGM**

1. **Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting 10th October 2014**

These minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Ian Parker and seconded by Charlie Colliar

1. **Matters Arising**

There were no matter arising.

1. **Chairmans Report**

Gordon commended Anne and the Braveheart team for the achievements during the year. He spoke of the strong commitment of Braveheart’s volunteers and thanked them for their contribution to improving the health of people in Forth Valley.

 He explained the value of the Engagement Exercise in drawing up strategy and he described the 5 pillars of Braveheart’s strategy -

* Partnership working
* Communication
* Development of Services
* Maintaining Funding
* Evaluation

Gordon explained the necessity of having a well skilled, robust Board of Trustees to guide the organisation. With only 3 members now remaining, recruiting new Trustees is a priority and these opportunities are now being widely advertised.

Braveheart is still transitioning having become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) only last year. This puts more emphasis on keeping a record of membership. This will be a priority over the coming months to make sure that those people already engaged with Braveheart have the opportunity to formally become members. Following some discussion, it was agreed that the board should put together a short description on the benefits of being a member.

Gordon concluded by thanking the Trustees for their valuable work.

1. **Treasurers Report**

 David Bremner (Treasurer) was unable to attend the meeting and Gordon gave a brief report of the accounts in his absence. There was a surplus of £6,962 in the year 2014/15. Most income received by Braveheart is restricted to be expended on activities and projects specified by the donor. In the period to 31 March 2015, all income received amounted to £116,334. The balance of funds for carry forward to next year is £9,091 and the Association is working on fundraising projects to build the organisations unrestricted reserves.

Unrestricted income is mainly derived from fundraising activities, donations and bank interest and during 2015/15 this amounted to £4,295.

1. **Elections**

Gordon corrected an error on Page 3 of the Annual Report, confirming that he is now Chairman. Gordon reported that the other Trustees were willing to continue on the Board

**Questions**

1. **Brian Robertson inquired whether or not a surplus was a good thing?**

Gordon explained charities should have a surplus of several months running costs as a buffer. For Braveheart this would be around £58,000, and so we would ideally hope to have a surplus each year until this figure is attained.

1. **Ian Parker asked if Board Members should be attending volunteer meetings?**

Gordon agreed this would be of great value to all parties and as something we should aspire to, but with only 3 volunteers on the Board at present, he explained this is not possible at the moment

1. **AOB**

None

1. **Date of next Annual General Meeting TBC**

Gordon thanked everyone for attending and closed the AGM