



Minutes of the AGM of Winchester Bereavement Support 13th May, 2026 at Littleton Memorial Hall

In attendance: Leonie Mountney (Chair) Diana Aldam, Jane Beesley, Gabrielle Easton, Nikki Flannigan, Margaret Fowkes, Huw Francis (Treasurer), Carmel Gillies, Ailsa Hall, Julia Hockey, Rosemarie Humpage, Andrea Jacobs (Secretary), Ann Jones, Jen Robinson, Louise Roberts, Milla Small.

- 1. Apologies:** Received from, David and Susan Bailey, Tina Barlow, Glenys Brundish, Vanessa Crowe, Adela Edgoose, Mick Gates, Catherine Gough, Sarah Haines, Judy Harris, Gail Howells, Clare de Lebotiniere, Anne Manley, Ann Marshall, Julie McMurtrie, Ros Nell, Sara Owen, Barry Preedy, Danie Reeves, Carol Roberts, Miranda Shoebridge, Naik Whittall, Norma York. (Following the meeting apologies were also received from Lizzie Ayling and Rosie Perrett)
- 2. Minutes of the AGM 2025** (Previously circulated): agreed as correct.
- 3. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 4. Chair's Report** (Previously circulated): Leonie highlighted the following points from her report:
 - It had been a good year for the charity and one in which we had focussed on raising our profile. To this end we have been particularly fortunate in having been chosen by Royal Winchester Golf Club as their charity of the year.
 - Thanks are due to all who had distributed our publicity. It is very important that this continues as nobody wants to know about a bereavement charity until they need one.
 - The service we provide to Winchester Hospice continues to be of enormous value.
 - We have run another training course and welcomed six new BVs. It seems we need to run a course annually. Vanessa and Gabrielle, two of our supervisors are working on producing a training manual to be used on future courses. In mentioning two of the supervisors, Leonie highlighted that supervision is one of the great strengths on the charity.
 - Health and Safety and Safeguarding remain extremely important and Ann and Andrea who are Acting Chairs at the moment continue to ensure these remain at the forefront.
 - Our association with the golf club has provided a connection with Tim Chaney who is now looking after our IT for us.
 - From the nominations for the committee, it would be noted that Julie McMurtrie and Barry Preedy have stepped down. Huw is stepping down as Treasurer and it is hoped we will find a replacement soon. We had hoped that Jane Jones would be joining us as Secretary but she has had to withdraw for family reasons. Andrea will continue to cover the role, for now. Leonie wished to thank Andrea for the support she has provided.
 - In conclusion Leonie said how much she had loved the role over the last four years. She feels that our best chance of finding her successor would be by personal recommendation. If

anyone knew anyone who they feel might be suitable, please draw the opportunity to their attention.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (previously circulated): Huw highlighted that although our total funds are considerably down over the year, the expenditure had all been planned and our position remains very healthy especially with the expected fundraising from the golf club. Leonie thanked Huw for his eight years in the role and hopes that we find a replacement soon. (There is an applicant who will be interviewed next week.)
6. **Referrals Team's Report** (previously circulated): Diana highlighted the main points from the report:
 - Total referrals are the same as last year
 - The gender balance shows that about 80% of our clients are female
 - Most often the relationship of the bereaved to the deceased is spouse or child although there are quite a high proportion where the bereaved is a parent.
 - Clients come from all age groups.
 - Clients usually found out about us from GPs or other healthcare professionals although the number who found out about us online is also significant.
 - There is no pattern in terms of clients by month or in the number of visits each receives.

Diana noted that the number of clients recorded in the report does not correspond to the number of calls received as for different reasons calls or emails may not result in a case.

7. Election of Officers and of the Executive Committee members for 2026-2027:

Nikki Flannigan proposed and Rosemarie Humpage seconded that the following be elected to the committee:

Diana Aldam

Jane Beesley

Adela Edgoose

Margaret Fowkes

Ailsa Hall

Andrea Jacobs

Ann Jones

Ann Marshall

(The officers' positions remain vacant but are being covered)

8. **AOB:** Margaret advised that the first meeting of an alumni group had taken place. This is intended for retired volunteers or those approaching retirement so that the ties they have formed during their time with the charity could be continued. It was agreed this was an excellent idea.

As the speaker organised for the meeting had been unable to attend, opportunity was taken for a general discussion.

Nikki updated us on the great fundraising efforts that the golf club are making on our behalf. There were three events before Christmas, a coffee morning and two Christmas lunches. Since then, there has been a sale of pre loved golf clothing. (We do not know how much has been raised so far.) Next week there is a Royal Winchester's got Talent evening which several of our volunteers are attending and a group taking part in two skits! The big event of the year is the

Captains' Charity Day in June. There will be a dinner in October to present the cheque for the amount raised during the year.

Further discussion took place on how we could raise our profile Carmel advised that we are able to have a stall at the St Cross Fete in June and she would be looking for volunteers! There might also be an opportunity at the Michaelmas Fair in September. Opportunities for publicity in the local press and on the radio will be taken up as they arise. We hope to have something published about the fourth anniversary of our association with the Hospice. The appointment of a new Chair might be another opportunity for local publicity.

Other discussion centred around where else we might distribute our publicity and the difficulties already encountered in certain areas. (Some places have indicated an interest in hearing about WBS but making the necessary arrangements has not been easy.) Many Churches do have their own arrangements for bereavement support groups but this may not be the same service that we provide so it is something worth pursuing. Suggestions for the future included giving talks to groups such as the WI, Rotary and Probus. Perhaps we should have a group of identified Ambassadors who would be willing to take on this role as needed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm