

SHARP

Staff of the Health Service Executive (Cork and Kerry) Association for the Relief of Poverty

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th September, 2019 in the Conference Room, Cardiac Renal Unit, CUH

Present: Billy Collins (Chair), Judy Foley (Vice Chair), Clare McCutcheon (Treasurer), Miriam Lynch, Noreen White, Cillian Twomey, Colette Moran, Eileen McCarthy, Mary Casey, Elaine O'Mahony

Apologies: Betty O'Donovan, Bobby McCarthy, Denis Long, Mairead O'Reilly, Ber Baker, Dr. Seamus Hart, Finbarr O'Donovan, Dr. Michael Hurley, Prof. Mary Cahill

The Chair welcomed all present to the 2019 AGM.

1. Minutes of 2018 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM - held on 11th September, 2018 - were adopted on the proposal of Cillian Twomey, seconded by Miriam Lynch.

2. Chairman's report

The Chair outlined the impressive work undertaken by the Association over the previous year and referred particularly to the quality of the organisation and the strength of its structures and Constitution. He acknowledged with thanks the loyal support of SHARP members and HSE Management and Administrative staff in various Departments whose conscientious and generous help over the years has made the Association so effective. All should be proud looking back on the projects supported since 1997 and their success.

The Chair spoke of the core loyal membership but also of the continuing decline in membership due to retirements and resignations from the HSE service and the challenge of recruiting new members and spreading the message of the Association's work.

Cillian Twomey and Clare McCutcheon, along with all present, thanked the Chair for his report and the inspiring work that he has done for the Association since it was formed in 1997. Members should be proud and note from the update reports received from projects, that cost comparatively little, that small grants from SHARP can mean so much to those in need.

At the proposal of Cillian Twomey, seconded by Judy Foley, the Chair's report was adopted.

3. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer updated the meeting on the financial situation with the following noted:

The Financial report for 2018 has been audited and approved by Raymonde O'Sullivan, HSE Honorary Auditor.

The opening balance at 01/01/2018 was €21,315.36. Income for the year was €100,100.18. Closing balance at 31/12/2018 was €22,436.27. Expenditure on supported projects amounted to €98,979.27.

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The Treasurer noted the substantial work done in 2018 and also referred to the challenge of retaining retiring members and recruiting new membership. SHARP attendance at retirement and induction seminars is facilitated by HSE Management. New leaflets are being drafted at present (kindly sponsored by the Health Service Staff Credit Union). The committee is progressing different ideas on how to recruit members and increase funds e.g. the option of accepting once-off contributions, and this work will be continued by the new committee.

Thanks were again expressed to the Treasurer for her trojan work and, on the proposal of Miriam Lynch, seconded by Judy Foley, the Financial report was adopted.

4. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

On the proposal of Clare McCutcheon, seconded by Judy Foley, Billy Collins was elected as Chair.

On the proposal of Cillian Twomey, seconded by Miriam Lynch, Judy Foley was elected as Vice Chair.

5. Election of four members to the Management Committee

It was noted that Betty O'Donovan and Miriam Lynch would not be seeking election this year. The members joined in paying tribute to both for their work for SHARP and the hope was expressed for their return in due course.

The following members were elected to the Management Committee:

Mary Casey – proposed by Clare McCutcheon and seconded by Miriam Lynch

Noreen White – proposed by Cillian Twomey and seconded by Elaine O'Mahony

Colette Moran – proposed by Miriam Lynch and seconded by Judy Foley

Clare McCutcheon – proposed by Cillian Twomey and seconded by Elaine O'Mahony

It was noted that a further two members of the committee remained to be nominated by HSE Management and that Cillian Twomey and Elaine O'Mahony were available to act if nominated.

6. Appointment of Auditor

The existing Auditor, Ms. Raymonde O'Sullivan, was nominated by Clare McCutcheon and seconded by Judy Foley. It was agreed to write to Ms. O'Sullivan to enquire if she was willing to remain as Honorary Auditor and to express our thanks to her and all her staff for their ongoing help.

7. Any Other Business

The date of the next meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, 8th October, 2019 @ 6.00pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting

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Chairman's Report 2020

Dear Member,

The 2020 AGM has had to be deferred due to the Covid-19 epidemic. It had been hoped to hold it late in the year but this looks very unlikely now. The Management Committee have decided that to keep you fully informed, we should circulate the AGM documentation in the meantime.

This is the position in summary:

- **We can't hold the AGM at present, but we are very much in business**
- **Fundraising is unaffected**
- **The Management Committee continues to work**
- **Projects are being assessed and supported**

Fundraising

Fundraising has continued as usual by way of deductions from pay and pensions. The epidemic has made no difference to this. The only effect is that the planned publicity and recruitment campaign had to be deferred.

Management Committee

The committee continues to function by email and telephone. They make sure that everything is done in absolute accordance with our Constitution and guiding policies.

Projects

Projects funded last year are listed in the Treasurer's Report. They are totally in line with what SHARP was established to do. You will see that very satisfactory work was done. As an example, I would draw your attention to the school in Seembwa in Zambia, a very remote place where there is near total illiteracy. SHARP has enabled the start of education there. The parents are providing the labour free and SHARP is giving the funding for a decent building and teachers. Last year we paid two young teachers in what was then a hedge school. This year we are paying the teachers again, pending approval of Government salaries. They are highly motivated young people. All they get is €2,500 a year each – to give education to the poorest of the poor. That is what a little money can do in Sub-Saharan Africa. The parallel with 1840's Ireland is clear. Suggestions by members for suitable projects are welcomed by the Management Committee. Contact details are given below.

Thanks

The vital work that SHARP is doing would of course not happen without three main elements:

- The members
- The staff and management of the HSE (South)
- The SHARP management committee

I thank you all. You can be proud of what you have achieved.

With the times that are in it, I must finish by expressing my best wishes for the health and wellbeing of you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

Billy Collins

Chairman

Contacts:

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Financial Report for the Period 01.01.2019 – 31.12.2019

Opening Balance 01.01.2019		€22,436.27
Income		€91,306.47
Total		€113,742.74
Less Expenditure		€92,097.50
Closing Balance 31.12.2019		€21,645.24

Income

Received by Credit Union	HSE South Staff	HSE NW (Retired staff)	Tusla (Child & Family Agency Staff)	Totals €
January 2019	5,401.60	368.31	103.00	5,872.91
February 2019	6,272.39	378.31	122.00	6,772.70
March	5,336.60	378.31	141.00	5,855.91
April 2019	5,324.33	378.31	122.00	5,824.64
May 2019	5,300.72	378.31	164.00	5,843.03
June 2019	6,975.83	378.31	127.00	7,481.14
July 2019	5,253.96	378.31	127.00	5,759.27
August 2019	5,221.92	378.31	137.00	5,737.23
September 2019	5,984.58	388.31	118.00	6,490.89
October 2019	5,195.17	388.31	118.00	5,701.48
November 2019	5,928.60	388.31	165.00	6,481.91
December 2019	6,138.40	388.31	135.00	6,661.71
Total 31.12.2019	68,334.10	4,569.72	1,579.00	74,482.82

Other Income

09.01.2019	Revenue tax refund	1,888.21
31.01.2019	Revenue tax refund	2,460.43
08.02.2019	Dividend, Bishopstown Credit Union	18.14
20.02.2019	Sponsorship for printing, HSSCU	1,000.00
14.03.2019	Revenue tax refund	116.81
10.04.2019	Refund of unused portion of grant	393.46
20.06.2019	Revenue tax refund	121.30
19.09.2019	Donation	100.00
19.09.2019	Revenue tax refund	233.62
08.11.2019	Donation	32.25
11.12.2019	Revenue tax refund	9,459.43
11.12.2019	Donation	1,000.00
Total other income		16,823.65
Total Income to 31.12.2019		€91,306.47

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Expenditure

Date	Details of Grants Paid	Amount
02.04.2019	Mercy Refugee Network, Cork Funding to subsidise travel costs for asylum seekers attending classes at Welcome English Language Centre, Cork	437.50
05.06.2019	Development Pajoma Ltd Funding for the purchase of physiotherapy equipment for use in the Medical Centre in Sarambei, Kenya	5,000.00
05.06.2019	Aidlink Funding to offer 30 out-of-school adults and young people in Lodwar, Turkana County, a second chance by providing the opportunity to return to education and obtain their Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education	8,650.00
05.06.2019	Vita Funding to provide 500 rural women and their families with climate smart cook stoves in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region, Ethiopia, with a focus on female headed households	6,000.00
05.06.2019	RiseRwanda Funding towards the provision of microfinance for women in rural Rwanda (Project phase 2)	4,000.00
13.06.2019	Community to Community Partners in Learning Funding to erect a perimeter fence at a storage unit for Tororo Groundnuts Growers Co-operative on 6 acres in Tororo Town, Uganda	7,900.00
13.06.2019	MECPATHS Funding of an anti-trafficking project for educating hotel staff on potential exploitation of children in their premises, specifically the development of a website and a professionally prepared suite of training materials.	1,400.00
13.06.2019	Gorey Malawi Health Partnership Funding to improve the management of Non-Communicable Diseases in rural Malawi and support non physician health workers using Moodle Educational Platform and clinical workshops.	7,000.00
11.07.2019	Irish Committee for Dr. Graham's Homes final balance of the Kindergarten Health and Safety Project, Kalimpong, North East India	10,000.00
17.07.2019	Infant Jesus Sisters Purchase of 2 incubators and 1 phototherapy unit for the neo-natal unit in the Nicholas Barre Hospital, Yaounde, Cameroon	10,000.00
25.10.2019	Catholic Diocese of Mongu, Zambia Completion of a Primary School for 250 children in the village of Seembwa, plus the salary of a qualified teacher in 2020.	15,000.00
25.10.2019	St. John Baptist Girls Secondary and Vocational School Funds to purchase beds for the school in Masaka, Uganda.	4,290.00
12.12.2019	Medical Missionaries of Mary, Nairobi Funding for micro finance support for victims of trafficking; rescue and repatriation of children; education of children of victims; counselling of victims	12,420.00
Total grants paid 31.12.2019		92,097.50