



Vine Counselling and Pastoral Services

Annual General Meeting

Monday 20th June 2016 at 7.30pm, St Andrews Church, Congresbury

Minutes

Present: 15 people attended: Rev Matthew Thomson, Liz Linnitt, David Seabright, Sarah Sheehan, Graham Preston, Ann Pursey, Leonie Wood, Barbara Hacking, Arthur Hacking, Sarah Rees, Jackie Walker, Su Elliot, Della Symons, Margaret Hamilton, Lorraine Scally

1. **Welcome and Introductions.**

Matthew opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed everyone.

2. **Apologies:**

Jo Lawrance, Rosemary West, Wendy Flowers, Carol Beveridge, Viv Hunter, Breeda Morton, Derek Davey, Jill Earle.

3. **Minutes** of last AGM held on 30th June 2015 were signed as a correct record.

4. **Treasurer's Report** (David Seabright)

(Accounts available) Income was over £25,000 over the year for the first time, therefore, a Treasurer's Report must now be prepared. In addition, the accounts must be independently examined. David Seabright would be arranging for these to be done.

Looking at the previous year's accounts, the charity was in a tricky position financially, with a loss being made. A particular focus on fundraising had been agreed and action taken in the last financial year had really paid off. Donations/grants from Churches, trusts, individuals and other events, Parish Council grants, 5 year friends had all increased plus there had been corporate funds donated from a company. Donations from clients has increased slightly. Specific mention was made of Blues Brothers evening (£900+ raised). The Virgin London Marathon runner, Hannah Robertson, had raised over £3000 for Vine, over £1000 more than the target. All those involved in raising the fundraising focus and helping with events were thanked.

Comment was made that the accounts were extremely clear and easily understood.

The Treasurer's message to the AGM that Vine needed people to support events, become 5 year friends and attend events organised.

5. **Fundraising Committee's Report (David Seabright)**

The fundraising committee: David Seabright, Graham Preston, Wendy Flowers, Viv Hunter. It's aim is to organize a number of events, a couple of big events and other small ones during the course of the

year. This year, among others, there had been the Blues Brothers evening, a Curry Night and the Lost Sheep concert.

For the future, in October there would be a ladies choir (Miscellany) concert, alongside the Chilli Cellos group. In November, a Mendip Swing (21 piece band) and Joyful Spirit was to be organised, to take place in Bristol due to the large space required. Other events were going to be organised also, and the fundraising committee would welcome any ideas.

RLB report from Golf Day

At this point, Lorraine Scally from Rider Levett Bucknall, was invited to speak regarding the recent Charity Golf Day. Lorraine confirmed that Vine and Jessie May were RLB's nominated charities of the year. RLB do a lot of in house fundraising but also organize the annual Charity Golf Day. 20 teams attended this year and very good raffle prizes were donated to the raffle for the day. Around £700 was raised from the raffle, plus a charity golf ball was sold at hole 11 on the golf course at £10 per ball – this raised £595. Lorraine explained that RLB did not raise as much as they had hoped on the day, but the company had some money raised from previous events and so had added that to the amount raised. Lorraine presented Vine with a donation of £1400 and Matthew asked her to pass on Vine's thanks to RLB for this, and their continuing support. Lorraine thanked those who attended from Vine for their help and enthusiasm on the day.

Lorraine asked for some words of thanks to be emailed to her for her to include in thank you letters being sent out to participants in the Golf Day.

6. Director's Report (Liz Linnitt)

(Report available) The Director's report was delivered by Liz Linnitt (Administrator) in Jo Lawrance's absence. Matthew thanked Liz for her work, especially while Jo has been absent and wished Jo and her family love and best wishes for the coming days.

7. Chairman's report (Matthew Thomson)

Matt stressed that this year had been mainly focused on fundraising and felt that this had produced a new energy, strong relationships and a fresh perspective. He commented that the counselling world is forever changing, and locally Positive Step were referring clients to Vine regularly. Also, the changes in local medical practices would have an impact as Yatton, Congresbury and Wrington Vale combine. How this would work was unknown. Barbara Hacking stated that Vine would need to advertise and keep the GP's aware of Vine's services. The GP's were looking for good services and it is therefore important for Vine to keep their presence in the surgery clear. Barbara would discuss this with Liz as to how best to approach the practices.

Matt thanked Liz for keeping the waiting list down to a minimum.

Matt reported that it had been hoped that the Spiritual Accompaniment service would have been better utilised. It was felt that some half day events would be welcomed and this would be looked at for this year. He asked that those involved in local Churches encourage people to see that meeting with a spiritual companion every 10 weeks or so is not just for ministers but is for all.

Matt felt that the future looked good. He still believed that Vine could still explore physical therapies, maybe couples counselling services and/or child/young people specialist counselling.

Matt mentioned the current vicarage project which could obviously affect Vine's use of premises etc, if the project goes ahead. There is also the potential in the future for Vine to have a base in Banwell.

Finally, Matt wanted to thank everyone who gives their time, money and enthusiasm to the charity.

8. Election of Trustees

All current Trustees are willing to stand again and no-one new came forward to offer to stand.

9. AOB

Vine Trustees BBQ for the volunteers – 23rd July 6-8pm.

Meeting closed 8.50pm with prayer.