

Worcestershire M.E. Support Group

for people affected by M.E. (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis), CFS (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome), PVFS (Post Viral Fatigue Syndrome) and FMS (Fibromyalgia Syndrome)

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Monday, 5th December in the Community Room at Waitrose, 223 London Road, Worcester, WR5 2JG

Those present: Ian & Karin Logan, Warwick Davis, Pauline Pearson, Mark Pigott, Jill Pigott, Caroline Carver, David & Shirley Hambelton, Clare Gardiner, Peter Goodbury, Linda & Phil Williams - a mixture of current and past members and their partners/carers.

1. Our chairman, Ian Logan, welcomed everyone and thanked everyone who was attending this important day in the life and history of the WMESG.
2. Since the original agenda had been distributed a suggestion had been made that a sum of money be made available should a new group be formed before the group's dissolution. An amended agenda was circulated at the EGM to address the possible ramifications. Also, copies of the latest constitution^(a) were made available at the EGM (the version agreed on at the AGM held 27.09.11) and on request section 12 on Dissolution was read out.
3. Ian Logan then introduced the reasons why we had reached the position of dissolution of the present group and what dissolution would likely mean. The constitutional requirement was not being fulfilled of there being another officer in position, that of secretary. The three remaining officers felt they had no option other than to propose that the group be dissolved due to the lack of people coming forward to offer their help despite asking for help for at least the past three years. Considerable time was then given over to discussing the items on the agenda before voting.
4. The proposal that the Worcestershire ME Support group be dissolved was agreed.
5. The proposal that the remaining officers of the group (Ian Logan, chairman, Warwick Davis, vice-chairman and Peter Goodbury, treasurer) should continue in post until the final accounts are produced was agreed. Also that the group's final accounts be drawn up at the end of the group's current financial year (31.03.17), that these be independently examined by Marion Wallace (independent examiner for the past two years), and that the details posted out to those who had been members for the membership years 2014/15 & 2015/16, and also placed on the group's website. Should there be a need to extend the time to finish the above this would be continued through to completion.
6. The proposal that the group's remaining assets would be disposed of as per the constitution was agreed. It was further agreed that;
 - £510.00, being the remaining sum relating to Aileen Vautrinot's fund-raising event for young people with ME, would be sent to Tymes Trust a.s.a.p.
 - the various items owned by the group (filing cabinet, laminator, display panels) would be disposed of and the money raised would be added to the sum remaining.
 - there would be payments going out for room hire up to the end of 2016 and for admin. costs through to 31.03.17.

- the amount remaining in the account in March would be forwarded to ME Research UK (MERUK)^(b) prior to the end of the group's financial year, and the bank account would then be closed on 31.03.17.

- subscriptions already received for the membership year 2016/17 would be offered back to the subscribers saying that if the people preferred these amounts would be donated to MERUK in March 2017 along with the rest of the money remaining in the group's account.

7. There was considerable discussion over the possibility of financially supporting a start-up of a new group as outlined in the amended agenda distributed at the EGM. When it came to voting on this matter the decision of those present was that this should not happen but that dissolution should take place, that there should be a clean break, and that should a new group be formed it should be self-financing as had been the case with the original group. (Also see Item 15.)

Marina Townend, the Specialist Occupational Therapist/Team Leader of the 'Worcestershire's NHS CFS/ME Service'^(c), contacted the group on behalf of the service prior to the EGM, giving their appreciation "for all that the group has done over the years", and asking how they could help in the future. It was noted that, "it was important for any future support group to be independent from the local NHS CFS/ME service", so that opinions on the service could be given and also being in a position to be critical when felt necessary.

8. It was agreed that the minutes of the EGM would be posted out to those who had been members in the subscription years 2014/15 & 2015/16, and also placed on the group's website.^(d)
9. It was agreed that the group's financial records for the past seven years would be retained and that the 'paperwork' relating to the group's activities would be examined 'at leisure' by the remaining officers who would make the decision as to what should be retained.
10. The closing remarks mainly consisted of thanks being given to all who had been involved in the group over its existence, particular thanks being given to those who had held posts within the group over the years. Now that the group had been dissolved (effective from 31.03.17) it left the way open for interested parties to form a new group and those who had been involved as officers were willing to be called upon for advice by anyone or group of people interested in starting a new group.
11. It should be noted that the website run by Jill & Mark Pigott will continue through to 31.03.17 at which time the website address would then be modified to allow for any new group to function independently of the original group. Explanations would be available on the sites, with relevant links.
12. It had already been decided by the committee, and people notified, that the monthly group meetings would stop at the end of December 2016.
13. No doubt people wanting information about ME etc. would still be making phone contact with Ian for some time and he was prepared to continue offering help in this way for the foreseeable future. Warwick Davis was also prepared to be available as a contact person by phone. Emails would also be answered when received via the group's website.^(d)

14. The monthly social lunches^(e) would be continued, providing an opportunity for pwME and FMS, carers & friends to meet.
15. The group's internet forum will cease as from 31.03.17. Relevant useful ME forums will be highlighted on the group's website.^(d)
16. The various proposals were put to the vote and, with one exception, were agreed with at least the minimum number of group members present and voting as required by the constitution. The exception being the suggestion that had brought about the amended agenda (the possibility of creating a 'start-up' fund for a new group) which was voted out.

Additional related information:

The account with 'easyfundraising'^(f) will be closed and any money due added to our bank account prior to its closing.

References to website addresses

- a. Constitution - (<http://tinyurl.com/hqm2fyu> via <http://worcsmegroup.weebly.com/about-us.html#1AnIntroduction>)
- b. ME Research UK (MERUK) - (<http://www.mereseach.org.uk/>)
- c. Worcestershire's NHS CFS/ME Service - (<http://www.hacw.nhs.uk/our-services/chronic-fatigue-syndrome/>)
- d. Group's website - (<http://worcsmegroup.weebly.com/>).
- e. Social lunches - (<http://worcsmegroup.weebly.com/meetings.html#2MeetingsandEvents>)
- f. Easyfundraising - (<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/worcsme>)