



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 7:15pm

Held at The Community Office, Customer Service Hub, Mazurek Way, Orbital Shopping Park, Swindon SN25 4AN

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous AGM – 14th May 2019
4. Group Organiser's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of Committee Members:

The existing committee all offered themselves up for re-election

Martin Hiscock - Group Organiser

Claire Huckerby-Brown - Group Treasurer

Zoe Thomas - Group Secretary

Louise Harney - Social Media Lead

Gareth Williams - Food Venue Co-ordinator - Currently co-opted

Minutes

- The Chairman, Martin Hiscock, welcomed members.
- Apologies for absence from four members.
- The minutes for the last AGM, on 14 May 2019, were taken as read, having been posted on our website. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed and seconded.
- One matter arising – the committee could ask members to donate raffle prizes.
- The Group Organiser gave his presentation. A transcript of which is set out in the appendix.
- The Treasurer gave her presentation.

- The re-election of committee members Martin Hiscock, Claire Huckerby-Brown, Zoe Thomas, and Louise Harney was proposed and seconded. Passed by 10 votes
- Election of Gareth Williams was proposed and seconded and passed by 10 votes.
- The business of the AGM concluded, and the floor was handed to Melanie of Int-olerance for her presentation.

Appendix 1

Transcript of the Group Organiser's presentation

Following our first AGM

- We launched the group in November 2018 and had our very first AGM shortly afterwards in March 2019
- We had our second AGM planned for April 2020 but clearly plans were suddenly disrupted
- On 15th March 2020 that we had to suspend all activities – Many plans we had in place put on hold – the monthly social events, a ten-bowling session, a Christmas event
- Life has been challenging for two years. It is only recently that we have been able to restart our events

Local Group Activities

- At the last AGM we asked opinions on coffee afternoons, positive, started - a regular monthly feature of the calendar, same day of the month (2nd Wed), same venue – held at McCaffs in the Brunel
- And when these were up and running, every other month we started evening socials at a local pub
- On an evening in November 2019, we had a very successful and well attended event and cookery demonstration at a large hall in Stratton
- We have continued to develop our relationship with the Dietician Team at GWH, and our group has been invited to and Zoe now attends the monthly Webinar led by Dietician Team for those recently diagnosed provides a helpful user view of living gluten free
- Each new member who joins CUK locally we contact by email and offer them an opportunity to chat to someone, it is the hardest time when recently diagnosed. And people who email us asking for advice we provide the same offer we are not tied to members-only – support existing members
- We have started the monthly emails, providing information on local venues and suppliers and local events, we want to keep people updated
- Our Social Media channels have been used throughout, with Louise looking after these and adding new content to keep them fresh and informative. We welcome all interaction on these
- Zoe has submitted pieces about the disease and the group into local circulars/magazines

- We keep the website updated with our events search for Swindon Coeliac
- Last month, in May this year, had a very successful Coeliac Awareness Week. Tag line #ShineALightOnCoeliac increase the awareness, too many people undiagnosed.

Some fantastic support from local businesses

- Oriental Aroma
- Int-olerance
- Fish and Chips on Thames Avenue
- Mcctaffs
- Three Crowns at Brinkworth
- Cilla's Cakes
- Dandelion Gifts & Coffee Shop

Behind the scenes

- We have continued to have Committee Meetings, mainly via Zoom, the frequency reduced because there was not much we could do. We are now back to our meetings every two months
- We have had challenges with our banking provider, other groups also, that Claire has worked hard to resolve – we might just be making headway now
- In March, following a request, Gareth Williams kindly offered to join the committee, co-opted on, as we develop our work and share information on food venues
- Throughout the time we have worked with Coeliac UK and one or more of us attends events that they arrange to inform local groups, and for us to feed in to them with our operational challenges
- We are piloting a card payment unit, Claire, a first for a local group

We have been busy.

A Time of Thanks

- Since the last AGM Suzanne Marshall and Lisa Evans have stepped down from the committee. My thanks to them for their time, it is very much appreciated
- To CUK and the support they give to us – to Tracy and Sian

- To Dietician team at GWH, to Emily – they share news about our group and are very supportive of the work we do locally – we hope that we can further develop this relationship
- To the many local suppliers – who continue to support us – in mentioning our events, hosting us and supporting us in many ways, attending events (*Melanie*) including the raffle donations this evening.
- The venue – let for free to local charities and organisations
- The committee – very proud - exceptionally strong and committed local committee – long list of what we do there are not many of us
 - Claire
 - Louise
 - Zoe
 - Gareth
- To the helpers and volunteers this evening – I thank you
- I am sure to have forgotten someone
- Finally, to you, local members – for your feedback, donations, interaction on social media and support on our journey together moves me into

Looking Ahead

- Our group – it's about people – meeting each other and supporting each other importantly having some fun along the way
- There is more we would like to do locally but I am not willing to add more work and hours on our committee, we are all volunteers
- If people give them time freely as they do, then the time needs to be carefully managed
- New people, as volunteer non-committee roles always welcome – small tasks in your own time fitted in as and when – we'd create a role you would really enjoy, and you can help us grow further and faster – please have a chat to me
- As long as the local group is wanted, we'll continue to do what we are doing
 - We have coffee afternoons 2nd Wed of every month
 - Every other month, third week, on Tues or Weds evening event
 - Making plans for events in the Autumn and near to Christmas.