

**Connect For Life**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Connect For Life**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 18:30pm**  
**Gatacre Pavilion, Gatacre Avenue, Oswestry, SY11 1DR**

**1. Present**

Frances Arnall (Chair), Alison Humphreys, Jenny Jones, Chelsea Davies, Julia Thomas, Sam Teare, Tudor Humphreys, Andrew Goodman, June Edwards, Viv Edgar, Carmel Clarke, Janet Edwards, Karen Maloney, Steve Maloney, Ian Moulton, Graham Mitchell, Rosy Davidson, Jacqui Mullings, Susan Hibbert, Alan Braddock

**2. Apologies:**

Reverend Jacob Molyneux, Keith Lewis, Hannah Hughes, Gillian Adams,

**3. Chair's Report**

Frances welcomed everyone in attendance and informed those present that the creation of the chair's report provided a chance to sit back and reflect. Thanks were given to the dedication of Alison, volunteers and the families.

The 22/23 year has been the first full year free of Covid restrictions. A slide was projected onto the screen showing a chart created by Alison with all of the facets for running Connect For Life and how the volunteers have taken some of the tasks and 'run with them.'

Active Cogs – still in the very early stages. Currently seeking a Project Lead whom will help it grow.

Possibility of rolling out the Connect For Life model nationwide – the heart is in Oswestry but would be happy to discuss the workings and experiences with those who may wish to replicate the work that Connect For Life does.

King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) – despite not being given an award, Frances read out positive comments from Anna Turner (Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire). The loss of the award will not stop Connect For Life doing great things in the future.

**4. Co-ordinator's Report**

Alison began by thanking the trustees for helping to develop Connect For Life along with those in IT, admin, and grant fundraising. Special mention of thanks was made to the Connect For Life team who have made Alison's role a lot easier.

June, a volunteer with Connect For Life then gave a short talk on what Connect For Life meant to her – described as 'best thing I've ever done.'

Alison explained how Connect For Life got its name. In essence, the connection brings people together; new starters arrive with low confidence but this builds week by week.

Karen, a family member of a service user, told those present her mother-in-law's story and how they had watched her go from 'strength to strength.'

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Despite charging for sessions there is a desire to keep that charge as low as possible, to cover rent and meals. 14 members in each day support session.

Frances mentioned that Connect For Life has been blessed with donations (approx. £7500 has been donated over the past year) and this enables the group to continue to enjoy all of the various activities.

The bank account currently stands at £ 26,674.00 in credit. This is very positive and a 'nice cushion.'

Expenditure on chairs is required.

Thanks was given to the Cricket Club – described as 'the perfect venue' with good facilities and a beautiful view.

## **6. Present Trustees**

Names of all existing trustees were read out.

## **7. Election of Officers**

Trustees who had served their term of office (Frances Arnall, Jenny Jones and Julia Thomas) were asked if they wished to stand again, all agreed and were voted in by the remaining members of the Committee.

## **8. AOB**

Connect For Life currently seeks additional trustees – especially those with finance/fundraising expertise. Asked to contact if there are any suggestions.

## **9. Date of next AGM**

Date was given as November 6<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Meeting ended – 19:14pm