

Minutes of AHPCC AGM Tuesday 24th May 2022, The Hayes Conference Centre 5:30pm

1. **Welcome** Keith welcomed those attending. 33 members attended.

2. **Apologies from:**

Sharon Connell, Andrew Martin, Susanna Offor, Carol Gully, Gary Windon

2021 AGM minutes were read and accepted.

All in favour.

3. **Matters arising** – none

4. **President's report** - *Keith Morrison*

I know I said it yesterday, but I want to say again to those present for getting here for those who aren't here as well as you well done for getting through it. We have come through the storm changed and weary, but I know you have touched the lives of so many in such a testing time. For those who have been in post throughout the last 2 years can I acknowledge your courage and determination in responding to the great needs expressed by patients, carers and colleagues.

And whilst the wind of the storm has died down there will be many pieces to pick up as a consequence and I fear that may take some time.

Can I also thank those of you who are new colleagues, who have come into Hospice and Palliative care chaplaincy during this period, thank you, it is very encouraging to see new blood coming into the profession and gives us great confidence for the future.

Executive Group

As you may know I took on the role of President last year and we had a big changeover on the executive committee.

We have met 3 times since last year's conference, once on zoom and 2 in person, that includes our 2 day residential where we pretty much plan the conference, over an afternoon, evening and morning and also in this circumstance got to know each other better.

We have found it is far better to meet in person when we can, but has sought to keep cost down, We are no longer meeting in London, but have found a venue at Knowle, near Solihull which offer reasonable rates and is fairly central in the country.

Can I say thank you to the exec for all you have done in this first year, as I mentioned yesterday we are/were all weary but have worked hard to make this a conference that would bring some new thinking alongside opportunity for thought and reflection, and also been supportive to one another as we have had other things to consider as well.

Thanks to those who have put themselves forward to stand for the executive this year, if you don't get on please try again next year.

Current issues

Research

As I indicated yesterday, research is important both to inform us and also in turn to inform others. At the meeting of the European Network of Healthcare Chaplaincy that I recently attended I met with Simon Harrison the President of the College of Healthcare Chaplains, and Mark Newitt who is the Secretary for Chaplaincy on the free churches group and we discussed the setting up of a research Forum/network to promote and support research among chaplains and to think about strategic priorities for research in chaplaincy in the UK. The AHPCC will be part of this, please do look out on the website for details of this if this is something that you might be interested in.

Also there is a UK wide monthly journal Club starting in September, again as a collaboration between all of the UK chaplaincy groups, details of this will also be on the AHPCC website in due course. I also commend to you The Narrative which is a monthly digest email curated by the free churches group secretary for healthcare Mark Newitt that is offered freely to all health and social care chaplains.

Link on our website.

Chaplaincy posts

I have not been made aware of too many posts being lost over the last year, but as Karen asked last year please make the executive aware of any further losses or changes to posts so that we know what is happening.

UKBHC

For some time now that has been discussion within our membership about UKBHC, particularly the specified routes for becoming an accredited member of the voluntary register.

The UKBHC had a scoping exercise about this time last year and we were told that the responses were both valued and varied. We as an association also responded to that consultation. But earlier this month, nearly a year later at the chaplaincy forum, where all

these groups meet we were told that the UKBHC continue to work in relation to widening registration routes, including validation of further academic programs and looking at the possibility of portfolio submissions to enable provisional registrants to move to full registration.

Again I would ask you to look at the website for updates. The register remains voluntary for the time being and I suspect will remain so for the foreseeable future. Membership of UKBHC is an individual decision of course, but offers chaplains the security of being under the umbrella of a PSA verified profession.

Chaplaincy Forum

The Forum as I have just suggested is where we find out what the other chaplaincy groups are up to. The Forum is purely a place for open discussion of issues relating to chaplaincy development, training and support, and is very good in doing so. After each meeting 5 main points for communication are established and again these are out on the website.

NHS England Guidelines.

The AHPCC, CHCC, UKBHC the Network and others are on a steering group to write NHS Pastoral, Spiritual and Religious Care (PSRC) / Chaplaincy Guidelines.

The first draft of this was sent out and as an exec we had an opportunity to comment which we did, we are expecting a refined draft to come out soon and I believe there will be opportunity to comment further. The hope is that these will be completed before the Autumn.

Regional Groups

These groups have continued to meet, some on zoom, other in a Hybrid form, or physically, please do continue to support each other in this way, and thank you to those of you who conveniently them.

ENHCC

The European Conference took place in Crete just last week, It was great to meet with chaplains all over Europe, and to hear what is going on, it is a good forum to share research, of course you also realise the distinctiveness of each country's culture, but the importance of chaplaincy is recognised throughout Europe and so be encouraged that you are part of not just a European but a global endeavour. Watching the Eurovision Song contest in that environment was interesting too.

Please do look out for the web site, please do keep in touch, engage with your regional groups, do let us know what is going on, and be encouraged.

Keith

In response to the President’s report, concerns were raised from a number of members regarding the complexity of UKBHC requirements for membership - some AHPCC members are not able to be full members of the UKBHC because they do not have a post-graduate chaplaincy qualification. More chaplaincy job specifications are asking for UKBHC membership as ‘desirable’ and there is concern that not being eligible to be a member will penalise some experienced palliative care chaplains in job applications. There are concerns about the cost of further education to postgraduate level. It was acknowledged that the question of faith body endorsement for UKBHC membership still needs to be resolved. The legitimate anxiety around these issues was acknowledged, and Keith assured those present that he will continue in his role as AHPCC president to make these representations to the UKBHC. It was noted that there is continuing development of training programmes for healthcare chaplains in the UK, and that Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) could be introduced over the next few years.

It was noted that Margery Collin, ENHCC representative for a number of years, had recently retired from chaplaincy. The meeting wanted to record thanks for Margery for all her work with ENHCC on behalf of the AHPCC over the years.

5. Treasurer’s Report- *Lucyann Ashdown*

Accounts were shared on screen.

AHPCC RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2021

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>Membership Subscriptions</u>	£2320.00	£2960.00
<u>Conference Fees</u>	£210.00	£10,390.00
<u>Grants</u>	0.0	£0.0
<u>Other</u>	<u>0.0</u>	£25.00
<u>Bank Interest</u>	<u>0.91</u>	31.09
<u>Total income</u>	<u>£2530.91</u>	<u>£13,406.09</u>
<u>Bank Balance on 1st January 2021 (20)</u>	<u>£11,725.99</u>	<u>£21,684.70</u>

PAYMENTS	2021	2020
Conference expenses (2020-21)	£695.00	£10,390.00
Executive committee expenses	£3, 742.43	£1161.68
Representing AHPCC (expenses)	£351.42	£1701.89
Organisation subscriptions	£155.67	£42.00
Printing and stationary	£0.0	£0.0
UKBHC	£0.0	£0.0
Website	£649.45	£907.05
Other		
Total payments out	<u>£5, 593.97</u>	<u>£14,202.62</u>
Bank balance on 31 st Dec 2021 (20)	<u>£8,597.02</u>	<u>£20,888.17</u>

Treasurer: *Lucyann Ashdown*

16th May 2022

The following points were raised:

- the main income is subs and conference fees - income was different in 2021 due to conference being online
- payments out - made conference deposit for this year already. This year was paid 2 years ago
- exec expenses include meetings and travel costs,
- 2 membership fees in the accounts
- website costs - £1000 which includes Mike's conference fees and the rest split over the year
- accounts will be audited later in the year
- deposit account around £9000
- current account £14915 due to conference fees sitting in it.
- it was decided as an exec to employ an administrator - restricted to £3000 a year. As a consequence, the proposal is to increase membership fees to £45 per year

Proposal: *increase AHPCC membership fee in the coming year from £40 to £45*

Proposed by Lucyann Ashdown

Seconded by Ben Da Silva

All were in favour. No abstentions, no votes against.

Lucyann Ashdown presented the accounts

Proposed by Mike Reader

Seconded by Martin Mcgonigle

All were in favour. No abstentions, no votes against.

Lucyann was thanked by the meeting for her hard work over the year as Treasurer.

6. Membership- *Lucyann Ashdown*

Current membership stands at 93 - 81 full, 12 associate, 5 new this year. 5 left, mostly due to retirement

Lucyann noted the exec is wanting to collect some more useful information from the membership form - such as pronoun, hours of work, faith affiliation, premise as a chaplain. This will be worked on in the coming year.

There has been a change to the way membership payments are made with the introduction of being able to pay by BACS. This has made a huge difference to the work, and 90% of people were now paying by BACS.

7. Website – *Mike Rattenbury*

It's been a quieter year than of late, even as things return to normal in general.

That said, Tom Gordon continues to produce a daily thought, which he's done without a break for twenty-six months now. The big drop-off continues to be in training events, which can be a nuisance if you've CPD to keep up with – if you know of anything, however local, please do let me know.

Don't forget that we're open to contributions and articles – always welcome. And if you see anything missing, please let me know.

Gary continues to keep an eye on the inner workings and licencing, etc, so thanks as ever to him for the security.

Now... and Keith alluded to this yesterday...

I've managed the website now, with an eighteen-month break in 2017-18, since July 2011 (I note that we were eyeing up Steve Nolan as a possible Conference speaker for 2012!). But life is still getting busier, and I plan to retire from chaplaincy later this year to make room for new challenges. I'm happy to keep up with the website, meanwhile, if you want me to, but would like you to consider a replacement that I can hand over to, with some continuity.

In case this handover works out, I'll take the opportunity of saying that working on, and later with, the AHPCC Exec, has consistently been a delight!

Keith thanked Mike & Gary for all their work on the website over the past year, and particular thanks to Mike as he moves towards retiring from this role.

8. Other Reports

a. Northern Ireland and Donegal Regional AHPCC Group - *John Wonnacott*

For a variety of reasons the group has struggled to meet formally over the last year. Members have been in contact with one another individually. When the group met it was by Zoom and both times it proved to be a good source of encouragement. Once it was to touch base with each other – it was very helpful to hear both the challenges and the opportunities that they were facing. The second time there was a presentation from a Palliative Care Quality Improvement team member. She shared findings from Learning Disability Scoping Report highlighting the challenges faced by those who have learning disabilities and are receiving palliative care. This was well received by the group providing useful learning and much to discuss. There was also space for the members to connect with each other and update each other.

In addition local hospices and hospitals have benefitted from spiritual care resources that were provided by the regional health department. These included literature and other aids such as holding hearts and crosses. In the last year a Journal Club has been created by the Northern Ireland Health Care Chaplaincy Association Research Group. Regional group members have availed of this peer learning opportunity as we think further about chaplaincy and research.

b. Scotland – *Mike Rattenbury*

As a Regional Group, we've been meeting every six to eight weeks via Zoom, but we are now planning to return to live meetings this autumn.

I'm in the process of handing over co-ordinating the group to a successor.

Generally, in Scotland, we've seen a substantial turnover in staff, saying goodbye to some longstanding and active members like Margery, but also welcoming some very capable new members.

We've seen some chaplaincy posts in the NHS becoming more workplace chaplains, entirely involved with staff support.

NB, as on the website, that VBRP is now being offered more widely.

NB also that as chaplains are deemed to be members of the core MDT in palliative care, along with other professions, we haven't suffered the redundancies that colleagues in England have.

9. External Reports

Brief notes about the following external groups were mentioned in the President's report.

a. **UKBHC** - *included in President's report*

b. **Chaplaincy Forum** - *included in President's report*

c. **ENHCC** - *included in President's report*

10. Elections to the Executive

One member is stepping down from the Executive.

The following nomination took place:

Nominations for a Member of Executive to serve for 3 years

Jill Thornton Proposed by Karen Murphy Seconded by Dee Yeadon

Jo Hird Proposed by Siobhan Hoyes Seconded by David Buck

Paula Graham Proposed by Leti Hawthorn Seconded by Ann Kosla

A vote was taken.

Jill Thornton received the most votes (16) and was welcomed to the Executive Committee.

11. Any Other Business

A letter was read out, written from ENHCC to healthcare chaplains working in Ukraine (letter attached). People were invited to contribute financial donations to the Ukraine Chaplain's association if they wished, and details of how to do this were given.

Tracy Robinson was thanked for her work on the Executive Committee over the past year, as she moves to new work outside healthcare chaplaincy.

12. Date of next Conference: May 15th - 17th May 2023 Hayes Conference Centre

13. Date of next AGM: Tuesday 16th May 2023

The meeting closed at 6:36pm.

Signed _____

President of the AHPCC

Date _____