

Present from the Board of Trustees: Sue Cherrie (Chair), Tom Reddy (Vice Chair and Hon Treasurer), Graham Bell, Joanne Fillingham, Amanda Quincey, Justine Woolf.

In formal attendance: Sarah Sleet, Andrew Adie, Claire Walsh and Jane Roberts (Min Sec)

Apologies received: Sarah Denselow (Hon Secretary), Lindsay Keir, Ashish Patel, Alice Rath and Ruth Wakeman.

Membership in addition to above: 275 attended and there were 15 apologies received.

1. Welcome, introduction and Apologies

Sue Cherrie, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared the meeting open. She outlined the agenda and reminded attendees that only those people who are Members of the Charity were entitled to vote. These would be added to the postal and online votes already received.

2. Chairman's Report on 2020 activities

Sue Cherrie, Chair of Crohn's and Colitis UK, introduced the report by thanking staff and trustees for their hard work and dedication during an exceptional period when the charity faced a crisis resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic. The focus had been on keeping services and support open for everyone with Crohn's and Colitis at a frightening time. Difficult decisions had been made to secure the charity's future.

Her priorities as a Chairman included living by our values and we had achieved this:

- We were ambitious, by all doing the best we could.
- We were compassionate, by focusing all our efforts on supporting those who needed us and
- We absolutely were stronger together because everyone played their part, whatever was asked of them.

Sue then provided a summary of the 2020 Annual Report highlighting the rapid redirection of resources to meet the huge increase in demand for information. Finally, members and supporters were also thanked for their ongoing support of the charity, without which its future would have been in question.

3. Treasurer's Report on 2020 financial performance

Tom Reddy presented a high level summary of the annual audited accounts for the financial year 31 December 2020. The impact of the pandemic had led to a £1.6M reduction in income which we met by reducing our cost base significantly and diversifying our income streams. This had enabled us to achieve a £600K surplus. Cash and reserve management had been challenging with a significant dip mid-year but we had a robust balance sheet position at the end of the year.

Questions from members on 2020 performance included:

- plans for fundraising,
- plans to re-recruit staff that had been let go to reduce the cost base,
- why helplines had been closed and
- funding IBD nurses.

Sue and Sarah responded to the questions setting out the charity's position including the continuing diversification of fundraising, our open recruitment approach to ensure the best candidates for new roles, falling demand for the particular helplines that had been closed whilst maintaining the general helpline and the continuing support to the development of IBD nurses.

4. Special resolution - to change name of Charity

The special resolution to change the registered name of the charity from Crohn's and Colitis UK to Crohn's & Colitis UK with Companies House, the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator was approved with a majority of 90% voting in favour.

The final moderated vote including postal, online at registration and at the meeting was 840 for, 45 against and 47 abstentions.

5. Our new three year strategy

Sarah Sleet, the CEO of the charity, set out the context and focus of the new strategy. A strategic review had been brought forward as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The charity's current five key aims addressing better public understanding, diagnosis and care as well as driving world class research and supporting people with the condition will be unchanged. But how we deliver those aims will change with a focus on understanding the impact of Crohn's and Colitis better building a better evidence base to influence change in their everyday experiences.

Questions from members on strategy included:

- the use of growing numbers of people with the condition to influence policy,
- the IBD nurses programme and
- trends in the use of surgical interventions.

Sarah set out how the charity highlighted the numbers affected by Crohn's and Colitis and value in doing so. In addition, she highlighted the ongoing value the charity placed on supporting IBD nurses, and didn't consider that there was increased surgical intervention as part of treatment of Crohn's and Colitis.

6. Any other business

There being none, Sue Cherrie thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

NB

Presentation slides and transcript also available