



Notes of the Branch Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th July 2006, 2pm,
Monet Room, St Clements Hospital Main Building

Present: Steve Cook, Ray Hill, Philip Bloyce (Chair), Ian Talbot, (Notes)

1. Apologies

Annette Petty, Julie Hammett, Liz Potter, Cheryl Godber and John Cripps

2. Accuracy of minutes and matters arising:

Typo error 1b – 1.2.a, should have read, Ipswich, not Lothingland.

The minutes of the branch meeting held on 20th June were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Proposed new structure for branch meetings:

Due to the low turnout this month and continual dwindling meeting support from stewards, it was agreed this meeting would be termed as an officer committee meeting. It was also discussed and proposed there is a need for changes to the format, structure and types of meetings to be held in the future to help become more productive without the unnecessary red tape which sometimes clouds issues. Each meeting shall be conducted within national and local rules and last no longer than two hours. No individual cases except with prior consent will be noted or discussed during meetings. A short summary before close of all meetings by the chair will be beneficial.

Proposed meeting changes include update changes to the branch rules to reflect the reduction of committee members to pass motions. Full branch committee meetings will consist of four meetings per annum including the annual general meeting (AGM). As this issue requires agreement at full committee level, the remaining meetings for this year shall be: August and December.

Full committee meeting dates for **all** representatives and officers will be as follows:

December 06 – March 07 (AGM) – June 07 - September 07 – December 07

Officer committee meetings shall be as follows:

September 06 – October 06 - November 06

January 07 – February 07 – April 07 – May 07 – July 07 – August 07 – October 07 – November 07

4. WTR. An opt out list for learning disabilities is up to date although two differing lists are in existence which need to be verified with Darren Clarke.

The meeting will also include other issues at Lothingland currently unresolved.

Action – I. Talbot

5. An address list of members email was thought to be one way of communicating with members in bulk using a web based technique which will supply up to date information relevant to member's needs and also supplying useful links and contacts. It was recognised this is no substitution for personal interaction with members, but rather a practical solution to get information out to several members quickly.
6. There are still problems clouding facility time with SMHP which may not be resolved in the near future.
7. Money spent on staff due to suspension has cost SMHP £109,000 in unproductive wages from April 05 – March 06. This amount is not reflective of other money spent to investigate cases or any other costs incurred. The time individuals are away from work range from 3 weeks to 16 months and the average suspension time is 5 months.
8. It is generally thought our branch retired members could become more involved with helping to voice cutbacks of the NHS in our constituency. Ideas to help Ray with future articles will be appreciated.
9. The branch is currently upgrading banking capabilities with UNITY Bank to enable on-line banking services. Many safeguards are in place, which include features such as double electronic signatures meaning no single transaction can be completed without being passed through one of the auditors or treasurer. This facility will also enable representatives to get reimbursement of expenses paid directly into individual bank accounts if requested. A separate account is also being set up the retired members section, but this account will not be on-line for transactions.

*If the proposals are accepted, all notes of officer meetings will continue to be circulated monthly as well as posted onto the branch website at: www.suffolkhealthcare.com

Date/time next meeting

*Officers only:

Tuesday 19th Sept, 2pm, Monet Room, St Clements Hospital Main Building

IT/ADP

21st July 2006