

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 22nd MAY 2024 AT THE ARK AT 7:30PM.**

PRESENT: Cllr B Forbes (Chairperson) Cllr S Hughesdon (Vice Chairman)
Cllr J Forbes Cllr G Marsh Cllr C Jarvis Cllr P Coote, Mrs L
Bannister (Clerk) Mrs C Jim (Deputy Clerk) and 10 members of
the public

GUEST SPEAKERS: Abigail Jago and Louise Thompson from Queen Victoria
Hospital, Paul Grief on behalf of the Armed Forces Veteran's Breakfast Club

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and
introduced the speakers.

Queen Victoria Hospital Governors

Louise moved to East Grinstead over 20 years ago and is a Governor for Queen
Victoria Hospital. This is a voluntary role.

Abigail works for the Trust as Chief Strategy Officer.

The meeting heard about the different services offered by the Hospital
including burns, rehabilitation, conditions of the eyes and hands, head and
neck cancer. They undertake 10% of the country's breast reconstruction
surgery, and they have the biggest prosthetics unit in Europe. Although they
have patients from Kent, Surrey and Sussex, they have patients travel to them
from throughout the country to use their specialist services.

As a Foundation Trust they have their own governance separate from the NHS,
which is what makes the role of Governor so important.

Last year the Hospital came top of the country for in-patient feedback, and
they have a 2% vacancy rate which is much lower than other Trusts.

The Hospital is keen to work with the local community and is working to make
improvements, especially in terms of waiting lists.

They are looking for more Governors and anyone interested should get in
touch.

Armed Forces Veteran's Breakfast Club

Paul acts as chairman to the East Grinstead Club. It is a space for all of the
Armed Forces to come together and talk where they can connect with each
other with people that will understand their service and background.

Paul explained about life as a Serviceman and how this creates issues getting housing and jobs when leaving the Armed Forces and settling into a community.

Paul is trying to raise awareness about the Breakfast Club so that like-minded people can meet for socialisation, networking and to find resources.

There are now over 500 Breakfast Clubs throughout 15 countries.

The Chairman thanked all the speakers and urged everyone to complete the Parish Survey that is now open.

SignedChairman

4th June 2024