

# Medact AGM 2018 – Minutes DRAFT

Friday 21st September, 2018 – 4.30 - 6pm

*Kinning Park Complex, 43 Cornwall St, Glasgow G41 1BA*

**Present:** Robert MacGibbon, Margaret Craig, Dorothy Logie, Carola Bronte-Stewart, Michael Orgel, Richard Dyer, Judith McDonald, Paul Cotterill (Treasurer), Alice Bell (Trustee), Elizabeth Waterston, Kristien Hintjens, Catherine Dyer, Duncan Macintyre, Daniel Flecknoe, Maureen Sturrock, Bob Turner, Fiona Girvan, James Friend, Margaret Jackson, Lesley Morrison, Heather Hunt, Anna O'Neill, John Logan, Christopher Ludlam, Molly Ludlam

**Apologies:** Bimal Khadka, Imti Choonara, Sue Cuthbert, Louise Rogers, Andrew Haines, William Bodger, Frank Boulton, Elisabeth McElderry, Anna Chaplin, Frank Arnold, Susan Mitchell, Georgie Race, Neena Modi, Kitty Mohan

**In Attendance:** Guppi Bola (Interim Director), Benjamin Walpole, Reem Abu-Hayyeh

## 0. Welcome and approval of Chair

Paul Cotterill (Treasurer) [PC] welcomed all, and the meeting agreed to his chairing in the absence of the Chair of the Board.

## 1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved as proposed nem con.

## 2. Approval of minutes of Annual General Meeting 2017

### a) Approval

The minutes of the AGM in 2017 were approved as proposed nem con.

### b) Matters arising

None.

## 3. Director's Report

Interim Director Guppi Bola [GB] presented the 2017/18 Annual Report.

Particular attention was drawn to:

- grant fundraising successes in the past year, to continue work on conflict & climate, and to drive new work on access to healthcare
- work on developing new 5-year organisational strategy to guide our work moving forward

- the encouraging initial results of the member consultation on the new strategy, which were made available at the meeting

A number of questions were raised by members:

**Is the broad range of activities sustainable?**

GB agreed on the importance of this question, and pointed to work in the strategy on how we prioritise resources and campaigns reflecting this. She also noted how successes with new projects in engaging new people and securing new grant funds has helped contribute to the overall sustainability of Medact's core by bringing in potential members, and grants providing contributions to core staff and costs.

**Are resources from training events throughout the year - such as the Fossil Free Health event - being made available to all members?**

These should certainly be available on request, and the team are looking at ways to share resources with members in a more structured way as more trainings take place now.

**How does the definition of health inform our work? Is the physical / mental health captured?**

GB noted that this question had arisen in internal discussions around the strategy, and the WHO definition had been agreed on as providing all of the necessary basis for our work including capturing full spectrum of physical to mental and individual to environmental health.

**Why are Medact Scotland & Medact Glasgow listed separately in the Annual Report?**

Staff admitted this was slightly confusing, but that the Glasgow group had initially developed a slightly separate identity from the wider pre-existing Scotland group. Now members from both had met and were looking to work together under the umbrella of Medact Scotland.

Lesley Morrison proposed a vote of thanks to all the staff, including Becky & Deirdre, for their hard work throughout the year, which was agreed by all present.

## 4. Treasurer's Report

Paul Cotterill presented a short Treasurer's report, noting:

- the strong growth in grant income from successful fundraising work by new Director Sophie Neuburg
- the success in building more core-cost-recovery into new grants, supporting the growth in the core staff team
- the encouraging growth in membership income

PC was pleased to recommend the draft accounts for the year to 31st January 2018 to the AGM for approval.

The following questions were raised by members:

**The breakdown of grant income by project/funder is not included in the Annual Report - is**

### this available?

This level of detail is not included in the summary in the printed Annual Report for space reasons, but is available in the Accounts as filed with Companies House, or on discussion with staff.

### The total expenditure on Wages & pensions is down on the previous year - how is this possible with the increase in staff numbers?

As the accounts are for Medact's financial year, which ends 31st January, this figure does not reflect the new staff recruited since then, but rather cover periods in 2017 when staff numbers were at a low point. The comparative figure for the previous year, on the other hand, includes periods in 2016 when a number of ICAN UK staff were included on Medact's payroll.

Richard Dyer agreed to second the motion for approval of the accounts.

**APPROVED - MOTION 1: Approval of FY17-18 accounts was approved as presented nem con.**

Daniel Flecknoe agreed to second the motions for reappointment of the auditor and fixing of their level of remuneration.

**APPROVED - MOTIONS 2 & 3: Reappointment of Judith Brookfield as auditor and fixing of the level of remuneration at a maximum of £4k was approved nem con.**

## 5. Other Resolutions

Motion 4 was proposed by Elizabeth Waterston [EW] and seconded by Michael Orgel:

*Be it resolved that in the interests of communication and transparency, that apart from matters of confidentiality, minutes of Medact's Board Meetings be made available by electronic mail to any Medact members on request*

EW presented arguments for the motion in the interests of transparency / communication.

There was a short discussion on how often Board meetings take place, and whether minutes will need to be approved (at the next meeting) before they are shared. As the Board meets 4-6 times per year this may result in a 2-3 month delay before minutes are available.

It was agreed that accuracy was more important than how current the minutes were, but that the Board could in a given case approve a set of minutes over email if necessary to expedite the process.

**ACTION - PC: Explore the option for open publication of Board minutes on the Medact website**

**APPROVED - MOTION 4: The motion carried with a clear majority**

There was a short follow-up discussion about the possibility of members attending board meetings. It was generally agreed that this would be ok, so long as it did not cause excessive

practical difficulties, especially if there was a need for the members to leave for particular confidential discussions.

## 6. Election of Trustees

The following candidates were nominated to become Trustees. Neena and Kitty both sent their apologies for not being able to be present on the day.

### Dr Margaret Jackson

*Nominated by: Elizabeth Waterston*

*Seconded by: Sarah Walpole*

I am a GP in rural North Yorkshire in a small but busy practice with a large elderly population. I have been a partner for twenty three years. I am also a GP trainer and coordinate the medical student (Hull York Medical School) teaching in the practice. With psychotherapy colleagues I have been facilitating pioneering group work with people with long term conditions in order to enable people to be better able to take control of their health and well-being. I have been collaborating with researchers at Hull University on this work.

I have all my adult life felt strongly about social justice and environmental sustainability. Over the past few years, and in particular since attending the Medact conference “Healthy Planet, Better World” in 2016, I have become much clearer that I need to become active in the movement towards a fairer and more sustainable world. My colleague Angela Harvey and I launched Yorkshire Medact last year and have been involved in anti-fracking campaigns in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

Now 55, I am able to devote more of my energies to working with these issues as I reduce the time that I devote to the practice. I am keen to become more involved in Medact’s work as I see Medact as a far-sighted organisation that ‘punches above its weight’ in terms of what it achieves for its size. I believe that working with such a broad remit (peace and security, climate and environment, economic justice and human rights) crucially enables the links to be made between all these areas. For all these reasons I would be very interested in joining the Medact board.

### Lesley Morrison

*Nominated by: Judith McDonald*

*Seconded by: Dan Flecknoe*

Lesley Morrison is a retired GP, still involved in medical student teaching, who has been an active member of Medact since its inception and a member of MCANW prior to that. She has always felt passionately about the need to rid the world of nuclear weapons and about the importance of Medact’s work to show that disarmament, development, human rights and concern for the environment are inextricably interlinked.

Living just south of Edinburgh, she would represent the views of Medact Scotland.

### Neena Modi

*Nominated by: Board of Trustees*

Professor Neena Modi is a consultant at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and professor of neonatal medicine at Imperial College London. She completed a three year term as president of the UK Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in March 2018. She heads a major neonatal research programme focused on the perinatal determinants of lifelong health, and led the development of the UK National Neonatal Research Database, of which she is the current director.

Professor Modi has made many contributions to children's services, and has been at the forefront of reinvigorating the clinical research base of paediatrics and child health. During her career she has served, among many other roles, as president of the UK Neonatal Society, president of the Academic Paediatrics Association of Great Britain and Ireland, and chair of the British Medical Journal ethics committee. She is currently president-elect of the Medical Women's Federation.

### **Kitty Mohan**

*Nominated by: Board of Trustees*

Kitty is a Consultant in Communicable Disease Control based in London and Oxford. A medical doctor by background she completed Public Health training in London in March 2018 and was awarded a PhD in Epidemiology from King's College London in 2016.

She is the President of the European Junior Doctor Association, which represents the interests of 300,000 junior doctors across Europe. She was a member of BMA Council from 2013-18, has previously been Director of the BMA, and was joint lead negotiator for junior doctor contract negotiations whilst Co-chair of the Junior Doctors Committee between 2013 and 2015.

**APPOINTED: The AGM approved the election of all to the Board of Trustees nem con.**

PC expressed thanks to outgoing Trustees Yannis Gourtsoyannis and Frank Arnold. Frank was unable to make it at short notice, but had sent a short statement of encouragement which was read on his behalf by Reem Abu-Hayyeh.

PC also noted with sadness the loss of former Trustee Judy El-Bushra, who passed away in the summer of 2017.

## **AOB**

A question was asked about teleconferencing facilities for members from around the country to join AGMs remotely. BW noted that we are increasingly making this available for group meetings for example, but that the format of the AGM made this less suitable.