

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Clifton Chapel on 7 April, 2017

1. The subscribers were welcomed to the 10th Annual General Meeting by the Chairman whose opening remarks expressed thankfulness to the Lord for His continuing mercies in these trying times. He remarked on the ongoing concerns over occupancy and the impact of this on the finances of Bethesda, the financial outlook, the appointment of two additional Trustees and the process of election of Trustees. He also said that the committee welcomed suggestions about matters concerning the Homes from subscribers and those with an interest in the Homes.
2. A resolution was then put to the meeting that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 April 2016 be approved. It was proposed by Mr. T.J. Rosier (Pastor, Maidstone), seconded by Mr. G.W. Hyde (Pastor, Tenterden) and carried nem con.
3. Mr. Topping introduced the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 and gave the General Manager's report.
4. The Chairman asked if any subscriber had a question on the report and accounts. Mr. Andrew Rayner referred to a question that he had asked two years ago about the strategy of the Bethesda Committee in view of the continuing losses incurred year after year which are clearly not sustainable, and asked what steps are proposed to reduce them. He also asked whether there are other ways than increasing the fees charged and is the type of accommodation most suitable to present needs? He also asked whether local consultation had been considered. The Chairman thanked Mr. Rayner for his question and said that the Committee had these matters under constant review, being seriously concerned about the continuing outflow of reserves, but the options available are very limited. The ideal would be one Home to provide for the needs of all of our elderly friends, but this is not possible, because residents, in most cases, prefer to remain in their local area. He said that the Committee would welcome any viable suggestions from supporters and friends of Bethesda if they were made known to the General Manager.
There were no further questions.

5. The Chairman asked a subscriber to propose and another subscriber to second the approval and adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016. It was proposed by Dr. M.J. Hyde (Tenterden) and seconded by Mr. D.J. Broome (Trowbridge), that the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 be adopted. This resolution was carried nem con.
6. Mr. Topping announced the result of the re-election by secret ballot of the members of the Bethesda Fund Committee who retired by rotation and to confirm the appointment of two new members, Mr. A.J. Collins of Lamberhurst and Mr. S.B. Cottingham of Eastbourne. Two hundred and seventeen ballot papers were issued to subscribers, of which 170 were returned and, as a result all of those standing for election had received in excess of 83% of the votes and had been elected for the period of three years.
7. The Chairman expressed thankfulness for the confidence placed in the Committee by the subscribers and sought a continuing interest in their prayers.
8. The meeting was then closed.

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