



6th November, 2022.

Roger Fiskien  
Hon Secretary  
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**HealthSense AGM, 2nd November 2022, held online, by Zoom.**

**1) Those attending:** Nick Ross (President of HealthSense); Richard Ballerand, David Bender, Susan Bewley (Chair of HealthSense), Kenneth Bodman, Diana Brahams, Malcolm Brahams, David Colquhoun, Roger Fiskien (Secretary), Robert Grant, Alan Henness (Membership Secretary), Keith Isaacson, James May, Tom Moberly, Leeza Osipenko, Mandy Payne (newsletter editor), Philippa Pigache, Caroline Richmond, Les Rose, Saba Ul-Hasan (Treasurer), Geoff Watts, Barbara Wesby.  
Total: 22 members.

**2) Apologies for absence:** Andrew Fulton, Nathan Hodson.

**3) Minutes of the AGM of 6th October 2021:** these were presented and agreed, *nem con*.

**4) Matters arising:** None.

**5) Chair's report:** This was tabled late. Susan Bewley presented information from her report and commented that, although she sometimes feels as though she has not achieved much in her time as Chair, having not yet brought down the edifice of quackery and unreason, it is clear on reflection that the organisation has, in fact, had a number of successes in a variety of fields relating to our core purposes. Further details are given in her final report, to be circulated with these minutes.

**6) Vote of thanks:** HealthSense president, Nick Ross, reviewed Susan's work during her time as chair and spoke favourably about her achievements in that time, especially given her many commitments. A formal vote of thanks was proposed by Philippa Pigache, seconded by multiple members and carried unanimously (and with acclamation) by the meeting.

**7) Membership report:** This was circulated prior to the meeting and will be circulated to members with the minutes. Alan Henness commented that the number of members (currently 209) has decreased slightly compared to a year ago but that this is not a cause for concern. Caroline Richmond suggested that, as a way of increasing the number of members, existing members should consider giving a gift of membership to a friend.

**8) Treasurer's report:** This was presented by the treasurer and will be circulated with the minutes. Saba Ul-Hasan went through a decade's worth of the figures for restricted and unrestricted funds together with a detailed breakdown of sources of income and the different forms of expenditure that we undertake. It was noted that the research fund has decreased significantly in recent years and there was a discussion about possible ways of increasing it, including the use of a professional fundraiser, an idea that received support from some members. The possibility of encouraging bequests to HealthSense was also put forward. Nick Ross suggested that it might be worth looking for research projects that are aligned with our aims and then, having identified a project, going out to look for a person or group which would support that project financially. The report was accepted unanimously.

[Note added later: a very minor inaccuracy was discovered in the report when it was reviewed later, namely that the report gave the numbers of winners of the Student Prize Competition as 3 in 2021 and 6 in 2022. In fact, the correct figures were the other way round, viz. 6 in 2021 and 3 in 2022.]

Geoff Watts gave his good wishes and left the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

## **9) Election of officers and trustees:**

The following were elected unanimously:

Chair: Roger Fiskén

Vice chair: Vacant

Secretary: Philippa Pigache

Treasurer: Saba Ul-Hasan

Trustees: Susan Bewley, Roger Fiskén, Andrew Fulton, Alan Henness, Nathan Hodson, John Illman, Keith Isaacson, James May, Tom Moberly, Elizaveta Osipenko, Philippa Pigache, Les Rose, Saba Ul-Hasan.

Concern was expressed about the lack of a candidate for vice-chair and it was again suggested that Leeza Osipenko would be a valuable person to occupy the position if she were willing.

**10) Any other business:** Nick Ross made two comments/suggestions: firstly, he reminded members that his position as president was not a lifetime appointment and that another person could be offered the post if members wished. Secondly, he felt that the Executive Committee should look systematically at the possibility of mergers with like-minded organisations. We should be asking the question: "who is in our space?". David Colquhoun commented that Sense About Science receives some of its funding from the pharmaceutical industry and that this is a bad thing from a reputational point of view.

Susan Bewley commented that, from the point of view of activism and campaigning, it was useful to identify people with 'bees in their bonnet'.

Nick Ross thanked members for their attendance and the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.