

**Friends of Nixon** [www.friendsofnixon.org](http://www.friendsofnixon.orgk) Charity no. 1145455

C/O 11a Denbigh Road, London, W11 2SJ

Documents relating to

THE NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the

FRIENDS OF NIXON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SEGBWEMA, SIERRA LEONE

held on

SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2020

Due to the current circumstances the meeting was held by group video conference call hosted on Zoom

**Present**
Ron Rhodes (RR) Robert Dixon (RD) Tom Kenny (TK) Sylvester Yankuba (SY) John Cochrane (JC) Michaela Fitzpatrick-Milton (MFM) Janet Barter (JBa) Ken Sharka (KS) Janet Barter (JBa) Colin Rowe, Mary Groves, Rosaline Adey, Jan H, Conon and Andy, Ann, John and Moyra, Richard and Carol Jackson, Elizabeth Faley, James Gibbs, Margaret, Chetana, Pauline, Roger Ing, Robert Graham, John Spencer, Eddie and Chris, Paul van den Bosch, Gill Webster, James Gibbs, Celia Gibbs, Sheila Baldwin, Sajid Aziz, Jemba Aziz, Arthur and Judy Breens.

A warm welcome to all.

Prayer led by Mary Groves.

Minutes from AGM 2019 reviewed and adopted – propsed RR, seconded EC.

Annual Report Presentation delivered by SY (attached below)

Financial Report presentation delivered by RD (attached below)

Independent Examiners Report and Statement of financial activities presented and also included below

Election of officials

Chairperson Rob Burnie Proposed by Colin Rowe and seconded by EC

Vice Chairperson Sylvester Yankuba Proposed by TK and seconded by RR

Tresurer Robert Dixon Proposed by KS and seconded by Mary Groves

Secretary Tom Kenny Proposed by JC and seconded by RD

Presentation delivered by Dr Ron Rhodes outlining the current electricity situation at the hospital and the sustainable improvement project currently being undertaken to secure vital and reliable power. We are very grateful and send a massive thanks to Miriea Gill for all her expert input regarding the electrical survey report and ongoing advice.

A huge thanks to all for the generous donations and fundraising throughout the year.

Informal discussion continued on Zoom although sadly no shared lunch as per previous AGMs in person.

Next AGM – Saturday 27th November 2021

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 **NINTH ANNUAL REPORT** November 2020

# Introduction

In its 9th successful year, the ‘Friends of Nixon’ has continued its focussed support of the Nixon Memorial Hospital in Segbwema, Sierra Leone. We have been able to respond quickly to immediate needs such as those arising from the global Covid-19 pandemic, and despite a necessary pause in certain activities due to the pandemic, have also been able to deliver significant sustainable development work within the hospital. We continue to support a broad range of hospital led initiatives across clinical care, staff training, hospital infrastructure and community health with the global aims of improving and maintaining the health of the population of Segbwema and the wider catchment area of the hospital.

# Trustee Activity

The makeup of the Trust has remained stable and we have continued our regular quarterly meetings, albeit virtually since March. We maintain our processes of reviewing applications for project funding which come directly from, or in collaboration with, the hospital’s management and staff. Monitoring and evaluation of existing projects occurs at each meeting, as does a financial review to ensure funds are sufficient to meet existing and future commitments to the hospital. Where required (for example in relation to recent electrical infrastructure support) external advice is sought.

# Hospital Context

The hospital continues to operate in challenging circumstances in Kailahun District in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone. It provides inpatient and outpatient healthcare services to all patient groups across six hospital wards with limited human and medical resources. It acts as a referral centre for Peripheral Health Units but can also send patients to larger government and non-governmental institutions as needed. Preventative health care initiatives are led by the Community Health Care team. The hospital continues to be administered by the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone although there has been significant progress in developing formal partnership arrangements between the Government of Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation and The Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone, of which the hospital is a member. Patients already benefit from several government run programmes at the hospital including the “Free Healthcare Initiative” for selected patient groups and testing and treatment for HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

# Fundraising

We remain indebted to the many individuals and groups who choose to support the hospital through the work we facilitate. Enduring interest in the hospital by individuals and groups enables fundraising costs to be kept minimal; a privilege we appreciate. We hope that there is a shared sense of value in the sustainable benefit and lasting progress made possible by long-term support. We are grateful to those who chose to donate to the Trust in memory of Dr Jenny Gibson and are very thankful for continuing support from long-standing partners including the Stamford Methodist Church and the Gibbs Trust. We are also heartened by contributions from both individuals and groups who have chosen for the first time to support the hospital through Friends of Nixon.

# Charitable Activity

Covid Response

Although case numbers of Covid-19 within Sierra Leone have remained comparatively low, the impact of the pandemic through lockdown measures put in place to contain it were felt by both staff and patients. The necessary restrictions in movement of people increased the risk of food poverty. At the request of the hospital we funded a package of food aid to ensure patients, vulnerable individuals and staff had access to appropriate nutrition during lockdown. In addition, we provided funds for additional hand sanitiser and liquid soap.

Electrical Infrastructure and Generator

The independent review of the hospital’s electrical infrastructure commissioned by the Trust was completed at the end of 2019. The team who conducted the review were able to trouble-shoot a significant number of issues on site to optimise the solar system. Their work also correctly identified and rectified problems with essential equipment such as the hospital’s autoclave, negating the need for unnecessary expenditure on replacement. Several recommendations were made to improve the system and safeguard the future electricity supply of the hospital. The Trust has enacted the first of these recommendations which was to provide a new 30KVA back-up generator to augment the capacity of the solar system. Following assessment of several suppliers in-country and overseas, the new generator was delivered and installed in September and is being used as needed, including during operations. We are exploring how best to support the hospital resource other recommendations including reconnecting older solar panels from an earlier project to the existing solar field. This will help provide the electrical platform needed as the hospital develops and potentially uses more equipment.

Ultrasound Service

Our work developing an Ultrasound service at the hospital has begun. Through the generosity of fundraising efforts by the Mission Projects Group at Stamford Methodist Church we have been able to provide an appropriate portable Ultrasound Machine for the hospital, together with training materials. The scanner is now in use on site and is helping provide enhanced care to pregnant women, as well as assisting in the diagnosis of other medical problems. In addition to benefits in patient-care, it is anticipated that the resource will help improve patient engagement with antenatal care and help increase staff morale through the development of a new skill. Over the next 6 months the vital work of on-the ground training for the midwives, community health officer and resident medical doctor will continue to embed safe and competent practice.

Sanitation, Water and Community Health

The construction of additional latrines on the hospital site funded by the Trust has now been completed. Staff, patients and visitors will benefit from these facilities, ensuring good sanitation practices are maintained. As an extension of the community work that involved constructing over one hundred latrines in villages surrounding the hospital, the Trust is pleased to be able to support a pilot project to build bore hole water wells in two of these villages; Ngodama and Waiima. Funding has been agreed and following consultation with the local community and SALWACO (Sierra Leone water company), work is scheduled to commence under the supervision of the Community Health Team in late 2020 during the dry season. This initiative aims to address the fundamental need for safe clean water supplies to minimise the burden of water-borne diseases which are endemic in the local population.

Staff Training

The Trust remains committed to offering opportunities for staff development. One staff member who received support has now successfully completed her State Enrolled Nursing qualification in Kenema and has re-commenced full time work at the hospital with additional responsibility as the lead for Infection Prevention and Control. We have also supported a further individual working within the hospital’s Community Healthcare Team who has recently commenced the second year of the same programme.

Support for the Nursing School

The final cohort of students undertaking the State Enrolled Community Healthcare Nurse (SECHN) qualification have completed their studies at the Nixon Nursing School. Many are now completing an apprenticeship year at the hospital. Although the Nursing School has become affiliated with Njala University in Bo, it has been advised of further improvements to its facilities needed before it can start delivering State Enrolled Nurse course itself (now that the SECHN course has been withdrawn within Sierra Leone). At the request of the hospital’s management, the Trust has committed to funding specific work required to improve the accommodation for the nursing students and provide equipment for the skills training lab. Once this work is completed, it is hoped that the Nursing School, whose continued existence is important for both the hospital and the local economy, will resume its educational activities in the first half of 2021.

Essential Medicines Support

The Trust continues to provide funding to enable a consistent supply of essential medicines be available at the hospital. Although the hospital is provided with certain pharmacy supplies through government health programmes, our contribution enables gaps to be filled, a stable service be maintained and the hospital to be empowered to flexibly address areas of unmet medicine need.

Blood Pressure Monitoring

We have committed to a pilot project introducing the “CRADLE Vital Sign Alert Device” for use at the hospital in 2021. This low-cost blood pressure device with a traffic light warning system has been proven to improve detection of pre-eclampsia, sepsis and compromise from severe bleeding in pregnant women with a subsequent reduction in maternal mortality and morbidity. The project will involve workshop-based training and the introduction of 20 devices for use in the Nixon Memorial Hospital and by the Community Healthcare Team. The device is also validated for use in the non-pregnant population. If the pilot work is successful there is scope to explore increased blood pressure monitoring for both pregnant and non-pregnant adults within the villages that the Community Health Care team support.

# Conclusions

On a personal note, it is the first time I have had the privilege of writing the Friends of Nixon Annual report whilst residing in Segbwema where we intend to be to support the hospital for the next 6 months. The dedication and resilience of the hospital and its staff despite evolving and complex challenges is humbling. It reaffirms the importance of the small but persistent collaborative role Friends of Nixon can play, together with other partners, in helping the hospital deliver its mission of providing the healthcare services its population unequivocally needs.



Dr Rob Burnie

Chairman

**Friends of Nixon** Memorial Hospital

Reg. Address: **11a Denbigh Road, London W11 2SJ**

*Charity number 1145455*

**www.friendsofnixon.org**

**Financial Report to the 9th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held on 28th November 2020**

Accounting Policies:

The consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared under UK statutory regulations and comply with section 130 of the 2011 Act. In compliance with the Charities Act 144(2) of 2011 our accounts have been independently examined by the Accounting Equation, Parade Chambers, Penzance TR18 4BU.

All payments have been approved by Trustees as Minuted and Lloyds Bank, Blue Boar Row, Salisbury SP1 1DP require two registered signatories to approve transactions.

Our Financial Year runs from 1st September to 31st August.

Current signatories are: Dr R Burnie (Chair) Dr J Cochrane, Mr K Sharka, Mr W Hobson and R Dixon.

Opening Remarks:

Despite the vagaries of Covid-19 our income has remained steady. Our main donor Stamford Methodist Church achieved its target with some ingenious efforts in fund-raising for which we are grateful. In addition, our funds were boosted by the generous gifts in memory of the late Dr Jenny Gibson and 3 years of Gift Aid recovery. There was also a small rise in giving by Standing Order. This was somewhat countered by a fall in on-line donations as *Wonderful* closed its operation. Our Secretary Dr Tom Kenny is looking to team up with an alternative contributor.

Breakdown of Income and expenditure at 31st August:

**INCOME: £**

1.1 Stamford Methodist Church 9,202

1.2 Gifts in memory of J. Gibson 4,969

1.3 Gift Aid recovered (3 years) 3,786

1.4 Standing Orders 3,505

1.5 Individuals 3,200

1.6 Wonderful on-line 1,410

1.7 Churches 1,320

 Total £27,392

1.8 Interest from Affirmative Deposit Fund 365

Total Income **£27,757**

**EXPENDITURE: £**

2.1 Generator 13,578

2.2 Ultrasound Equipment 7,983

2.3 Essential Drugs Fund 6,000

2.4 Volunteer Bursary 3,600

2.5 Covid Relief Fund 2,325

2.6 Solar supply survey costs 1,442

2.7 SRN Training 420

 Total 35,348

Administrative costs

3.1 Printing, Postage, Stationery & Website 493

3.2 Bank Transfer costs 175

3.3 AGM costs 164

3.4 Travel Reimbursement 51

3.5 Quickbooks support 9

 Total 898

Governance Costs 34

 **Total Expenditure for the year £36,280**

**Income over Expenditure (£8,523 )**

**Affirmative Deposit Account Balance at 31st August 2020 £45,920**

As a charity we are extremely grateful for the on-going support we receive from Friends, organisations, and churches and their confidence in us to effectively partnership with Nixon Memorial Hospital in delivering assistance and support to the population in and around Segbwema. We are indebted to the staff at the hospital who continue to give of their best and dedicate their time and efforts in saving lives and treating patients at the hospital as well as those promoting community health in surrounding villages. We are conscious of the hardships many of them face on a daily basis, yet they continue to strive to serve others.

Finally, I am personally indebted to fellow trustees who give of their time and expertise in guiding the Trust and in the huge amount of time they dedicate to following up on decisions we make. We remain grateful for the assistance we receive from Karen Warne and Laura Parfitt-Marr at the Accounting Equation.

I would encourage as many individuals as possible to sign-up for Gift Aid recovery, if entitled to it, since 25% on donations, no matter how small can add a significant boost to our funds.

Robert Dixon

Treasurer.



