

## WILTON AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 13 March 2008

Those present:

Peter Batt – Chairman  
Rene Towler – Vice-Chairman  
Peter Wilkinson – Secretary and Treasurer  
Angela Marsh – Co-ordinator  
Elizabeth Andrews  
Link volunteers  
Members of the public

Item 1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee to the assembly.

#### Item 2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Sue Jiggins, Jennie Jones, Marion Gillion, Patricia Bluett and Robert Acworth.

#### Item 3 Minutes of the AGM held on 14 March 2007

It was proposed by David Barnes and seconded by Jenny Barrett that the minutes were accepted as read.

#### Item 4 Report by Chairman on progress with the Scheme and outline of possible future developments

An agreed proposal at the 2007 AGM to reduce the committee members required to form a quorum to 3 was submitted to the Charity Commission who accepted the amendment. The Chairman gave a resume of the year 2007 which included the activities of the management committee and the members.

We held a coffee morning at Langford and a volunteers' get-together at Quidhampton. The clients' outing for 2007 was at the Ginger Piggery in Boyton and was enjoyed very much by both clients and volunteers.

The Chairman spent some time over various statistics and in particular the rise in the loss per driving task to 74p from 66p in 2006. We have in fact run at such a loss since first becoming operational. Despite this he said that he would not like to think that anyone living in the confines of our Scheme need be worried about whether they can afford to use our services.

We decided to invest in advertising material in various ways last year. The Chairman was delighted to report that this had resulted in an increase of 12 volunteers. This in turn had made the life of our Co-ordinators so much easier.

The Chairman then drew attention to the Volunteers' Guidelines which were based on a draft by the Link Project Office in Devizes. On the new expense claim form the volunteer will be certifying that their vehicle has a valid MOT and Road Fund licence, that the vehicle is properly insured and that any penalty points on the driving licence are declared to the Chairman. The Chairman stressed that we are putting the clients into the care of the driver. The current position of the CRB process was outlined.

The Mayor's Ball is on the 26 April and we are the chosen charity. The Chairman said it would be nice if we could make up a table of 10.

The Chairman then talked about the future of the Scheme and outlined at some length on the matter of providing a care service. He suggested certain approaches to the topic and stressed that all care tasks would have to be registered with the co-ordinator. We may have to be more flexible in this process than we are with driving tasks.

The Chairman concluded by thanking all volunteers and in particular the 2 co-ordinators for their hard work during the year.

A question from the audience asked about guidance to clients on how much they should donate for a particular task. This arose from an enquiry about how other Link Schemes deal with this subject. A general discussion followed.

#### Item 5 Treasurer's report

Copies of the accounts and report were made available to everyone. The format of the accounts this year shows any surplus or deficit and the Treasurer explained why the Scheme had a deficit in 2007. The fund was still in a healthy condition.

#### Item 6 Election of Officers

Jennie Jones has asked to be relieved of her position as co-ordinator. She does wish to continue as a committee member. The other 6 members are prepared to stand again and this was proposed by Mr Powell and seconded by Mr Kerwood. Angela Marsh proposed that David Barnes be elected to the committee as an additional member and this was seconded by Mrs Curtis.

The Chairman asked for any help for Angela in her role as co-ordinator and the assembly was requested to think of anyone who may be prepared to stand in as deputy from time to time. Such person would have to be CRB cleared as they should become a member of the committee.

The assembly was asked to note that the Chairman was prepared to stand for a further 2 years and the AGM in 2010 would be asked to elect a new Chairman.

#### Item 7 Consideration of ideas from members for outings in 2008

Several venues were raised including Stourhead and Longleat. The committee will consider all suggestions later in the year.

#### Item 8 To consider mileage allowance

In 2001 we originally paid a mileage allowance of 35p. One or two increases occurred in 2005 and 2006. Most Link Schemes now pay 40p per mile. With the sustained level of fuel prices throughout the year the committee felt that an increase to 40p was inevitable, and this was proposed by David Barnes and seconded by John Rattue.

#### Item 9 Other proposals by members

Bob Powell raised the topic of "care". Several issues were discussed including the insurance situation, and Mary Gatehouse welcomed the whole idea as she finds small jobs about the house more difficult (something with which many clients would concur). Small donations to the Scheme would be encouraged and tasks would be formally conducted through the usual process.

#### Item 10 Any other business

Mr Powell also urged drivers to inform clients about the Shopmobility scheme in Salisbury. Clients can, for example, hire a wheelchair for a notional sum and if the driver stays to help they can park their car free.

#### Item 11 Closure of meeting

The meeting was declared closed at 8.29pm.