

WILTON AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 11 March 2009

Those present:

Peter Batt – Chairman
Peter Wilkinson – Secretary and Treasurer
Angela Marsh – Co-ordinator
Sue Jiggins
David Barnes
Helen Lines – Link Project Officer
Link volunteers
Members of the public

Item 1

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee to the assembly. He particularly welcomed Helen Lines, the Link Project Officer from Devizes.

Item 2 Apologies for absence

These were received from Paddy Archer, Andrew Frost, Ben Kerwood, Elizabeth Andrews, Jennie Jones, Rene Towler, Margaret Brazier, Mr & Mrs Whatley, Marion Powell, Sarah Puttock, John Rattue, Philip Daw and Allan Curtis.

Item 3 Minutes of the AGM held on 13 March 2008

It was proposed by Elizabeth Acworth and seconded by Robert Powell that the minutes were accepted as read.

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

The Chairman mentioned that we almost reached crisis point last year when it was thought we would not have a co-ordinator. The Committee advertised extensively and established a bank of co-ordinators. The Chairman thanked Angela, Jennie and Peter for temporarily keeping the show on the road.

At the last AGM an increase of 12 volunteers was reported but this has not been maintained. However we did meet a high proportion of requests. We shall be looking for new volunteers and we need to advertise seriously again.

The Management Committee met 6 times during the year and the Chairman attended 2 meetings of Link Chairpersons in Devizes. The Co-ordinators also attended a seminar at Devizes. We had 2 coffee mornings and 2 volunteer get-togethers. We also operated a stall in Wilton market on 4 occasions.

We published 4 newsletters aimed at keeping both volunteers and clients informed of issues. An outing was arranged in September which was much appreciated by the clients. The Chairman thanked Peter for organising this and the volunteers who helped on the day. The Chairman reported on various statistical data relating to the Scheme including the number of tasks exceeding 1000 for the first time. Non driving and non health related tasks increased considerably. The operational cost loss was not significantly different to previous years. On the issue of CRB all committee members and all new volunteers have gone through the process. Later in 2009 the Independent Safeguarding Authority will be introduced and all volunteers will need the approval of the Authority before they can operate. The Chairman will write to those affected.

The Chairman recorded much satisfaction firstly with the £2100 received from the Mayor's Appeal and secondly with a website having been set up at nominal cost. The website means that we can communicate with volunteers and clients alike in a major way.

The Chairman concluded by stating that he would like to expand the non-driving side of our operation. He also publicly thanked the co-ordinators and all volunteers for their contribution.

A question from the audience about CRB invoked much discussion. Helen Lines explained the phasing in of the new Authority and how it will affect our Scheme.

Item 5 Report by Treasurer

Copies of the accounts and report were made available to everyone. The Treasurer mentioned how the Mayor's Appeal of £2100 had transformed a deficit in 2007 to a surplus in 2008. Client's contributions had increased by 25%. The assets of the Scheme were shown for the first time. The examiner of the accounts had shown concern at the amount expended on volunteer's get-together. The Treasurer explained the reason behind this and the Chairman will write to the examiner accordingly.

Item 6 Election of Officers

All members are prepared to stand again. This was proposed by Robert Acworth and seconded by Gail Curtis. The Chairman asked whether anyone would take on the duties of minute secretary. He also mentioned that he proposed to stand down in 2010. Rene Towler would stand down and the committee would attempt to replace him as Vice-Chairman with a view to such person becoming Chairman next year.

Item 7 Consideration of ideas from members for outings in 2009

There was discussion on this subject at some length. Breamore House and Stourhead were mentioned. The committee will consider all suggestions later in the year.

Item 8 Other proposals by members

Robert Powell suggested that a "flyer", relating to our services, could be prepared with a view to a driver handing this to a passenger. This invoked a lively discussion and the Chairman will look into such a proposition. Helen Lines said the Project Office had recently compiled factors similar to such a plan, based around the "Good Neighbours" idea, and this would be sent to the Chairman.

Item 9 Any other business

None was raised. Robert Powell thanked the Committee for all their efforts.

Item 10 Closure of meeting

The meeting was declared closed at 8.25pm.