

WILTON AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 10 March 2009

Those present:

Peter Batt – Chairman
David Barnes – Treasurer
Peter Wilkinson – Secretary
Angela Marsh – Co-ordinator
Sue Jiggins
Jennie Jones
Elizabeth Andrews
Link volunteers

Item 1

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee to the assembly. He mentioned that there were no constitutional issues this year which required approval by the assembly neither were there any items on which the committee required a decision from the AGM apart from the election of officers under item 6.

Item 2 Apologies for absence

These were received from Rene Towler.

Item 3 Minutes of the AGM held on 11 March 2009

These were accepted as read.

Item 4 Chairman's report

We have been operating with a bank of 3 co-ordinators with Peter Wilkinson helping out where necessary. We have a total of 41 volunteers of whom 38 are operational (ie available to undertake tasks). We have 2 volunteers who are awaiting their CRB clearance.

It remains difficult for co-ordinators to find volunteers for tasks as they arise but despite this we have met all but a small number of requests. The Chairman gave a big thank you to the co-ordinators in particular for this achievement.

We are aware that a significant number of tasks are carried out by a handful of volunteers and we need more people.

The committee met 4 times last year. We had two coffee mornings, one at Langford and one in Wilton. The volunteers' get together was well attended.

We set up our stall in Wilton market 4 times. This was less than we intended but the weather was poor on a number of Thursdays.

4 newsletters were produced and distributed to clients and volunteers.

4 articles were written for Valley News and Wylde Messenger mainly aimed at attracting new volunteers but also to encourage a potential new chairman to come forward.

Our website has been maintained.

Last years outing was to the airfield at Compton Abbas on 10 September which was much enjoyed. The Chairman thanked Peter for organising it and the volunteers who helped on the day.

The total number of tasks undertaken during the year was 1183, 119 more than the previous year. Non-driving tasks were 92 – less than the previous year. The number of health related journeys was about half the total number. Volunteers travelled 22122 miles – over 5000 miles more than 2008.

The Chairman then turned to the subject of CRB and said that we have taken on the responsibility of verifying the declarations made by volunteers previously done by Wiltshire Council. All volunteers (except the 2 newest) and committee members have now been cleared and we are beginning to revalidate clearances. These only last 3 years. We are unable to use volunteers until they have received CRB clearance.

We declared ourselves ready to help anyone who had been diagnosed with Swine flu despite limitations set by the NHS. So far this exercise has come to nothing.

(Chairman's report continued)

(Chairman's report continued)

The future

We need to find a way of attracting new volunteers and we have purchased display boards which will show what we do and how we do it. We intend to use these boards in Wilton Market and other events such as village fetes. The question of discovering when events take place and getting volunteers to man the displays is being addressed.

It would be desirable to increase the number non-driving tasks and we are looking forward to opportunities to doing this.

The Chairman then thanked the co-ordinators and volunteers for another very successful year.

Item 5 Report by the Treasurer

Copies of the accounts and report were made available to everyone. For the first time ever client's donations exceeded driver's reimbursements. The fund is financially sound. The grants from Parish Councils were down but conversely we received £500 from a single client. The relatively high advertising costs over the last 2 years will cease. The income from Gift Aid has improved considerably.

Item 6 Election of Officers

The Chairman reminded the meeting that it was his intention to stand down in 2010 but as nobody has come forward to take the post he was willing to continue for another year on the understanding that he could give 3 months notice of standing down. There was no response from the assembly to take on the position and Philip Daw proposed that the Chairman should continue.

There are presently 7 other committee members, one of whom Sue Jiggins, cannot continue because of other commitments. The Chairman thanked Sue for her involvement over the last few years.

All other committee members are willing to stand for re-election. Elizabeth Acworth proposed this and Sheila Higgins seconded.

Angela Marsh proposed that Andy Gentle become a member of the committee and Jennie Jones seconded.

The Chairman asked the meeting to agree that the committee should appoint a Vice Chairman during the course of the year who would be prepared to take on the post of Chairman, subject to the agreement of next year's AGM.

Item 7 Consideration of ideas from members for clients' outings in 2010

There was much discussion on this subject. Several venues were mentioned. The committee will consider all suggestions later in the year.

Item 8 Other proposals from members

Angela suggested use of the word "neighbourhood" in the Wilton Link Scheme. Discussion was held on this topic. A question from the audience asked how many clients were on the database. At present there are approximately 160.

Item 9 AOB

Sheila Higgins asked about the expenditure item "Training Seminar" in the accounts. The Treasurer gave an explanation and the Chairman gave the background to why this expression was changed from the original of "Volunteers get-together".

Item 10 Closure of meeting

The meeting was declared closed at 8.09pm