

TEDDINGTON AND HAMPTON WICK VOLUNTARY CARE GROUP

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting

At St John Ambulance Hall

Park Road Teddington

7.30pm for 8pm till 9.30pm, Friday 15th October 2010

- 1 Welcome Ursula Lloyd, Chair, extended a warm welcome to guests, including Councillor Tania Mathias and speaker, Ken Howe from The Teddington Society
- 2 Guest Speaker Ken Howe
- 3 Apologies for Absence Karin Sumption, Douglas Brown.
4. Present Nine members of the committee, eight guests, two members of staff, a councillor and a guest speaker attended.
- 5 Approval of Minutes of 34th AGM The minutes were approved.
- 6 Matters Arising There were no matters arising.
- 7 Co-ordinator's Report Miriam Andrews reported an increase of trips to out of area hospitals and general increase in workloads. The consortium were organising the Befriending Scheme now. The Group's client base increased by 30 people but this increase was balanced by a similar number of deaths. The new council had also created further work and more people were being referred from Social Services. Unfortunately some of these cases had to be rejected as they involved mental health problems such as alcoholism, for which volunteers were not trained.

It had been a severe winter and sometimes T&HWVCG were the only contact a client would have. Two peoples' deaths were reported by volunteers - often a volunteer visiting to shop would be a valuable lifeline. A new bus driver joined the Group, raising the number to 6. The ISA register had been dropped for now. The last two newsletters had been e-mailed to volunteers which had saved money, although this benefit was not much evident as postage costs increased.

Building work continued in the Methodist Church and a coffee morning had been held in the church itself. This proved such a nice atmosphere that we will ask again to use it. Alfie Evans confirmed that this would be possible.

Miriam thought that work hours may have to be increased to deal with the new workload. The charity had grown into a vital local service since its inception in 1975

- 8 Treasurer's Report Dave Rayner referred the meeting to the breakdown of incoming and outgoing figures before it. The original capital investments with Birmingham Midshires had both ended during the year and the capital had to be re-invested. He had invested the first tranche again with Birmingham Midshires at 2.5% interest as it was still recommended by CAF, but the second tranche with

RBS at a better interest rate of 3.5%. Of course interest rates were down from the earlier 5.5%. Unfortunately, to balance the books this year, Dave had had to transfer some of the second tranche to the P&L account, leaving just £8,500 in the second tranche.

Dave had requested £8,000 from Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, including £3,000 for the befriending service, but received only £4,000 as they were confused about the befriending service. They asked for a separate application from the Richmond Consortium, Hampton and Hampton Hill VCG and ourselves combined to fund the befriending service. We are still awaiting action on this from the Consortium and HHHVCG. Meanwhile, a separate grant of £3,000 was obtained as a Grassroot Grant from Thames Community Foundation to fund the befriending service until the end of March. This money we've paid over to the Richmond Consortium, who fund the service, even though it is operated out of the Greenwood Centre.

Most strikingly, the miscellaneous donations (mainly from clients) were down for the second year running. This represented a dramatic reduction of about £700 per year. He warned that the Group would need to bring in more donations and grants or work would be threatened. Although the number of jobs had risen, the petrol money paid to volunteers was surprisingly down, probably because of a long term 'out of area' trip which no longer took place.

Staff thought they were putting in more hours but this had not been reflected in the hours claimed and hence in the salaries paid. Insurance had risen because, in addition to the usual cover for employment and public liability and for volunteer transport, we were now able to obtain contents cover for the office, following the fitting of an appropriate lock on the door.

For many years, our outings and parties has always made a profit, but this year for the first time in a long time they ran at a loss. This was largely because of some poorly attended or cancelled outings in the summer. As a result, the Mary Tillett fund had now been used to cover the losses, resulting in that fund being exhausted.

The books had only been balanced by drawing from the capital reserve account and by the last part of the bequest from the estate of Mrs Mary Ryan. Dave warned that the situation must be rescued for the Group to survive next year. With many of the grant giving bodies, grants were not allowed to cover salaries, but only one-off project costs. Brian Slymon asked how much more money was needed to be generated and Dave replied that £2,500 to £4,000 had to be found from a source not yet identified. Interestingly, grant bodies giving like Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity looked favourably on organisations with invested money, seeing it as an indication of long term stability. Thus, we should try to avoid depleting the capital reserve again next year.

- 9 Election of the Committee and Officers Introducing a slightly different procedure, all members of the committee stepped down and then stood to be re-elected, apart from Ursula Lloyd who was soon to be leaving the area. They were all duly elected. The meeting was asked if there were any nominations for the committee and Eva Eldridge was nominated and elected.

Mary Tavendale was elected and nominated as Chairman on Ursula Lloyd's retirement, Dave Rayner was nominated and re-elected as Treasurer and David London was nominated and re-elected as Secretary.

The full committee is now: Eva Eldridge, Chris Harle, Linda Jephson, David London, Dave Rayner, Graham Shortell, Brian Slymon, Karin Sumption and Mary Tavendale.

In addition, Douglas Brown is an honorary lifetime member of the committee and Maureen Landau will be co-opted to the committee. Neither have voting rights.

- 10 Any Other Business There was no other business and accordingly the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.