

Wilton Link
Annual General Meeting
7.00 pm Thursday 18 May 2017

Minutes of meeting

1. Attendance: Committee members: Roger Williams, Valerie Williams, David Barnes, April Slack, Steve Long, Beth Andrews.

Volunteers and clients: Dorothy Boniface, Mary Coventry, Christine Wickham, Valerie Fry, Peter Henocq, Marion Powell, Harry Thompson, Betty Belk, Margaret and Randall Clovell, William Holmes, Ivor Wright, Alana Poulton, Ted and Win Pentecost, Sarah Puttock, David Parker

2. Apologies: Bob Powell, Marie Hallett, Gill Richards

3. Welcome and Introduction

Roger Williams welcomed all present to the AGM and introduced the Committee members. He advised the meeting that April Slack having been a co-ordinator had now agreed to take on the role of Treasurer as well as being a driver. Roger reported that since its inception Link schemes across the County had transported clients more than 1,000,000 miles! A fantastic achievement.

4. Minutes of meeting on 11 May 2016

Christine Wickham proposed that these be accepted as read. This was seconded by Mary Coventry.

5. Report by Chair

Roger reported on a busy and successful year for the Wilton Link scheme. In particular he highlighted the following:

- Over 1200 tasks were performed by volunteers in the last year
- 21,100 miles were travelled by volunteers in providing a transport service to clients (up from 20,367 in 2016)
- 2,300 – no of hours committed by volunteers
- 170 clients benefited from the Wilton Link scheme in 2016
- Wilton Link currently has 30 volunteers, 26 who provide a transport service
- In addition to transport the scheme has reminded clients of its ability to provide other help e.g. befriending, gardening, odd jobs
- Two outings were arranged for clients in 2016. The summer outing was to Longstock Nursery nr Stockbridge which was attended by 36 people, and in December a get together was held at the Wilton Garden Centre
- Roger advised the meeting that the Link scheme

was advertised through a variety of means including newsletters and posters which are displayed in local surgeries, library and public notice boards. Articles are also written in the Valley News and the Link website contains details of the scheme and minutes of meetings. A A6 leaflet advertising the scheme has been produced and is widely distributed in Wilton in doctors surgeries, library, hairdressers etc...

- Roger took the opportunity to thank all volunteers and committee members for their hard work through the year and in particular to the co-ordinators Val, Sarah, Gill and Sheila and without whom the scheme could not operate.

6. Treasurers Report:

Copies of the accounts and report were made available to everyone. David Barnes highlighted the following:

- Drivers reimbursement exceeded donations by clients which contributed to a reduction at the end of year total of £6,241.62 compared to £8,334.51 at the end of 2016
- In the last year we have received Gift Aid Donations of £825 and Gift Aid Tax rebate of £351.
- DB pointed out that computer expenses were £954 following a decision by the Committee that there should be a computer for use by the Treasurer rather than this person having to use their own personal computer.
- We continue to receive some support from Parish Councils
- Wilton Link has been identified as his nominated Charity by the Mayor which will result in a future donation.

7. Secretary's report

- Steve Long advised the meeting that we continue to pay our insurance through a group scheme arranged through Wiltshire Community First which has reduced our premium by over £100 each year. In 2016 the Committee decided to enhance this insurance to give indemnity to Committee members. In 2017 this has cost £99
- Steve highlighted the cost of running the Wilton Link which was over £12,000 each year and that our balance has been reducing for a number of years. The last newsletter contained an item which sought to raise awareness of the cost of the scheme and how clients can assist. In particular he pointed out the opportunity for all of us to leave a legacy in our will. It was pointed out by a client that to do this the charity number needed to be advertised. **Action:** SL to include Charity no of Link in next newsletter.

8. Election of Officers

All Committee members indicated their willingness to continue in their role. A proposal for re-election of all was made by Christine Wickham and seconded by Alana Poulton.

9. Clients outing

RW informed the meeting that an outing for clients to Braemar House will be arranged for early September. Further information will be included in the August newsletter.

10.AOB:

- Harry Thompson asked for an explanation of the Training Seminar shown as expenditure. RW explained that this was an annual event for all volunteers which provided an opportunity for them to be thanked for all their hard work and to update them on any developments. Roger asked for comments and the meeting agreed that this was an appropriate use of Link funds.
- Concern was expressed that on occasions clients were making a minimal donation which did not go anywhere near covering the cost of the drivers expenses. A discussion followed in which Roger explained the action he took when the Committee became aware that a client was abusing the service but this was a rare occurrence. We recognise that Link is a charity and that not all clients can afford to cover the full cost of the journey. It was agreed that the way forward was to continue to raise awareness of the cost of the scheme and how clients can support it.
- Roger concluded the meeting by giving special thanks to David Barnes who has been the Link Treasurer for the last 7 years and will continue to be a volunteer driver. He also thanked Ivor Wright who will be leaving the county on his travels to far flung places!

10. Closure of meeting: the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Presentation

Following the AGM a presentation was given by David Parker on a proposed Wheels for Wilton initiative. David is the owner and editor of the Valley News and until recently was Chair of the Wilton and District Business Chamber. He is also Chair of a working group which has been set up to look at the viability of starting a transport service for the Wilton and surrounding area.

It would be run along similar lines to the Tisbus although in the first year a vehicle would need to be rented: Wiltshire Council have agreed to make a grant of £3,000 to assist with this. David explained that the service provided would be different to the Link scheme in that it would be more of a timetabled service and would cater for groups but that the users were likely to be the same.

The scheme would require a co-ordinator and drivers all of whom would receive payment. He suggested that there was an opportunity for the Wheels for Wilton project to work with the Link scheme possible to have a shared co-ordinator and drivers.

The meeting welcomed the project and recognised the potential benefits to Link clients. It was agreed that we needed to better understand the implications for the Wilton Link of working together as suggested by David and to achieve this it was agreed that Steve Long would represent Wilton Link in future discussions with David and the working group.