

Quidhampton Covid-19 Support Group

Minutes of the meeting of the steering group 19.00 on 7 September 2020 via zoom

Present: John Cater JC (community emergency volunteer); Ian Day ID; Zoe Hoare* ZH; Hannah Newnham HN (secretary); Howard Rowley *HR (chair), Jane Taylor JT; Ken Taylor *KT (minutes, parish zoom facilitator); Bea Tilbrook BT (village communicator) *parish councillors

1. **Apologies for absence** – none. With general apologies, it was realised that Jane Morgan, who stepped back from the steering group when she could no longer manage to attend daytime meetings but remains on call as a community volunteer for shopping/prescription calls, had not been informed of the change of time of the meeting. To be circulated with the minutes, and agenda in future. **Action: KT re minutes**
2. **Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting 19th August 2020**
These were approved.
3. **Matters arising and actions agreed from previous meeting not elsewhere in the agenda**
All actions had been completed except contact with the police for advice on Neighbourhood Watch, and advice on washing one's face after wearing masks.
 - a. **Neighbourhood Watch:** KT will find the current advice about this **Action : KT**
 - b. **Washing faces after using masks:** BT had sent an email to ID and HR asking the exact wording. She will re-send it
NB New advice on masks was under preparation by ID, to be sent to HR. ID said there may be indications that home-made masks also work for the wearer by reducing the amount of infectious material that passes through and so reduces the severity of the illness.
Action: BT ID HR
4. **Report from chair**
HR remarked that case numbers are rising, which is worrying for the group and our community. Everyone needs to keep a watchful eye, and be ready to respond if there's a change required locally and/or advised by government.
5. **Community Emergency Volunteer**
JC had nothing to report on shopping or prescriptions.
JT again reported about five phone calls and ten face-to-face meetings. One person who had been supported since a pre-lockdown bereavement was beginning to be more positive. Some other incidents were mentioned: one involved conflict between young cyclists and a motorist; and another a confused elderly couple with existing health issues. ZH added that the former had been reported to the police, with CCTV evidence. The latter was resolved at the time, with the help of others. ZH and JT were complimented by all on their interventions and support.
6. **Committee members reports**
KT : Wiltshire Community Action (WCA) is developing 'Wiltshire Together' for community support groups to enable and encourage better connections across the county. Groups are invited to make themselves known as it develops. Wiltshire Council's officer from the South West Wiltshire Area Board is involved. KT proposed that Quidhampton should register itself when the system becomes operational, and provide a link to our Covid support group information on our parish council website. **Action** KT to follow up
ZH : The White Horse limits itself to Thursday to Sunday opening, in order to reduce the risk to our staff and customers. Attitudes are changing and some customers appear to have become slack, but we try to maintain strict procedures. Seeing infection numbers going up in the country confirms our decisions and approach.
ID: See item 3b.
ID also reported that a party of young people had taken place again in the woods

7. Problems and lessons learned

BT raised communication

- a. Approximately 80 homes do not get the village email, therefore BT proposed to send out a card to those homes with the next newsletter, inviting them to join the email list. Instant communication by email is proving more important in these different times. She knows some of those 80 are not be interested in village affairs and some do not have email but she wants to get as many as she can on to the list.
- b. From October paper copies of the village newsletter will again be delivered to every home, unless a resident opts out.
- c. BT would eventually like someone to take over the village email. She would of course give all the help she could to someone who wanted to do it but did not think the idea of a permanent assistant to be a practical alternative arrangement.

Masks: The non-wearing of mask was raised, and recognised to be a difficult subject. Some people may have legitimate reasons, others forget. No easy answers were forthcoming, but there was a fair degree of consensus on acting by example, and reminding people.

8. Consideration of updates from UK government or Wiltshire Council

No remarks

9. Data Protection

No remarks

10. Training

A document on masks will be prepared by ID for HR's approval. See 3 b above.

Action: ID and HR

11. Any other business

- a. JC raised long term succession planning for the group. ZH and BT do more for the group and the village than can be sustained in the long term. It would be good to recruit some new people e.g. the just-retired at 60. People could begin by shadowing us generally.
Action : All to consider
- b. ZH asked whether a vaccine was near. HR summarised that it was typically a six stage process taking at least two years, though some stages were being run in parallel. As a related issue, it was currently known that only two people are known to have it twice in 17 million infected worldwide. He added that there were also possible indication of slight mutations reducing the severity.
- c. JT asked as a reminder, that everyone spreads the message that if anyone knows of people in the village felt to be vulnerable or lonely, please get them to call her.
- d. ZH advised that they love the pub and the village, but plan to leave the White Horse in the spring. Nick's father was very poorly and this and other family reasons outrank staying on. The group very much regretted but understood their decision.

Date of next meeting: 19.00 Monday 21 September 2020