Quidhampton Covid-19 Support Group

Minutes of the meeting of the steering group 19.00 on Monday 2nd November 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

In opening remarks, Chair HR noted that things have changed, given the announcement on Saturday 30th October of a one month lock-down, which will be reviewed on 2nd December. The rules were not yet fully clear. It was expected that the effects on the levels of covid-19 contagion will not be seen for 2-3 weeks. If behaviours didn't change then the lock-down may be extended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – none

2. **Approval of minutes of previous meeting** - 19th October meeting minutes were approved.

3. **Matters arising**
   From previous meetings (items not in main agenda, or still open)
   21st Sept: 11a. Establishing volunteers' status was not yet complete. The task was acknowledged to be very time consuming.   Previous experience had required follow up phone calls and email   **Action HN** to continue this time consuming job.
   5th October   See main agenda item 6   re matters arising ref 6a. Wiltshire together and 6d. Neighbourhood Watch
   Last meeting 19th October
   - See main agenda item 6 re 6.1 Halloween & Christmas
   - Re 6.5 An email would be sent reminding the public of the useful links, but not until the links are seen to have been revised following the new government guidelines.   **Action BT**

4. **Report from chair**
   See chair's opening remarks – above.
   HR noted that there are fewer cases locally than elsewhere, and the volunteers and village support was in place. JC agreed and emphasised the importance of getting all volunteers' response on their status.

5. **Community Emergency Volunteer**
   JC : Nothing to report.
   JT : Fifteen phone calls had been made, four people met and several email exchanges took place in the last two weeks. It had been established that a hard-pressed working carer for an elderly relative was in touch with support organisations. JT had provided her mobile number and offered to be called. It had been established that an elderly villager who had recent and continuing medical problems was being supported by attentive neighbours.

6. **Committee members reports**
   6.1   'Breaking the rules', and Neighbourhood Watch(NW)
   HR had requested the clerk to invite a police representative to the PC meeting on 24th November. He added that historically the village had a Neighbourhood Watch group which lapsed many years ago. However the Covid group was in effect doing much that NH does.
   Follow-up at PC 24th Nov
   6.2   "Wiltshire together" /Support group networking   KT and JT had attended the second online meeting about community groups' networking organised by Wessex Community Action. It was unfortunate that the direct sharing of feedback from break-out sessions hadn't worked on the day. They process hadn't developed yet to involve an effective sharing of best practice. It was agreed that KT and JT would follow activities, and feedback to the group when there was significant progress. The issue would meanwhile be dropped from the agenda.
   6.3   Christmas
   a. Discussion took place to establish how the group might act best to identify and support activities that replace the cancellation of community events in the period up to and through the Christmas.

b. BT observed that almost all events in the November newsletter would now be cancelled. It was noted that the various organisers had already said that the traditional events wouldn't go ahead in December (e.g. Carols, Christmas raffle, Not the bus pass party).

c. ZH said that Christmas bookings would be taken at The White Horse, and she hoped that the Sloe Gin competition could happen. The photographic competition results would come out soon. KT mentioned that the 2nd online Art Exhibition was coming along well for launch in November.

d. Ideas for Christmas activities from others, or suggested by meeting attendees included :
    o HN: A volunteer had offered to cook an extra meal on Christmas day
    o JT: Bemerton community was planning a gift package for carers.
    o ZH: mentioned the loan of technology, e.g. a laptop.
    o KT : offered of his Zoom account to facilitate any gatherings people might welcome.
    o A suggestion was made to encourage the decoration of houses.
    o BT: suggested a toast to each other, distanced on the street, at a set time, like clapping for carers..
    o HN suggested bells could be rung on Christmas eve or with the toast.
    o Plants were mentioned as a gift
    o JC: mentioned that money could be made available from the village entertainment fund of which he is treasurer.
    o ID mentioned help with Christmas shopping. The vulnerable wouldn't want to join a rugby scrum.
    Further ideas and priorities would be sought and discussed together.
    Action BT, JT, ZH and JC

e. Overcoming loneliness was mentioned as a key aspect, recognising that could extent to couples. Also it was recognised that some people would be happy on their own and have phone and social media contact with families and friends.
    JT offered to do some tactful calling to learn peoples' situation, and help establish who may be lonely, and doesn't want to be alone. ZH would work together with JT to pool their knowledge.   **Action JT and ZH**

7. **Problems and lessons learned**
   7.1 "Poor behaviour" was mentioned as ongoing issue. See 6.1
   7.2 BT sought clarification whether the PC would separately account for Covid-19 spending. HR confirmed that the allocation came from general PC funds so would not be seen separately but all were reminded to send HN a record of all spending by the Group.   **Action All**
   Outgoings were believed relatively low, for printing for fliers and some pro-rata printing in the newsletter.

8. **Consideration of updates from UK government or Wiltshire Council**
   An extensive government update had been issued. It was highlighted that the 'vulnerable' age had been reduced to 60. That was believed to have been influenced by the average age of patients on ventilator being 62.

9. **Data Protection**
   Nothing to report

10. **Training**
    Nothing to report

11. **Any other business**
    None

   Date of next meeting: 19.00 Monday 16th November 2020