

Quidhampton Covid-19 Support Group

Minutes of the meeting of the steering group 19.00 on Monday 14th December 2020 via Zoom

Present: John Cater JC (community emergency volunteer); Ian Day ID; 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** – Zoe Hoare ZH (ZH reported via email; for summary – see 6)
2. **Approval of minutes of previous meeting** – The minutes for the meeting on November 30th were approved.
Re 9. Data Protection : JC was content with the minutes, and advised that it was intended to issue the Emergency Plan on paper to those needing it, which includes all those named in it who volunteer skills or equipment. It would be left to the Parish Council (PC) whether to post a copy protected by password on the PC website.
3. **Matters arising**
3 re 7: WhatsApp data policy – HN had passed a copy to BT for proof reading.
Action BT and HN
Re 6. BT had not yet sent out a reminder that residents can call 101 “if you see people breaking the rules”
Action BT
4. **Report from chair**
 - a) There were more festive lights in the village than in previous years, and the Christmas Tree outside the village hall was well received.
 - b) HR recommended the group discusses its advice to the public later in the meeting. Further government advice would be forthcoming on 16 December.
5. **Community emergency volunteer**
JC : Nothing to report.
JT : made 21 phone calls and had five face to face meetings. Details were shared with the steering group on the circumstances and generally good degree of family, neighbour and other support known of. JT intended to call or visit some people herself during the Christmas period and asked whether the group knows of others. One other person was mentioned, and known to be quite well supported. Lily Newman’s offer to make Christmas lunch was recalled
Action JT, and All ; bring any new names to attention.
6. **Committee members reports**
 - 6.1 **Information was shared**
ZH : (by email)
The White Horse
 - Trade ticks over, at reduced capacity due to only allowing 1 household per table.
 - When taking bookings, people are reminded of the regulations, but ultimately their word has to be taken. In one instance a family disregarded the rules.
 - The White Horse is expecting to be able to open this week and next, but industry word is for the closure of pubs from 27th Dec.**BT**:
 - a) Knowledge was shared of a **carols and music event** which had taken place last week outside the village hall. This had gone ahead despite the organiser having been asked by BT to consult HR for the group’s guidance. HR was not contacted, and BT had declined to send a village email advertising it. It had then been advertised on Facebook by the organisers.

Discussion of the event: ID considered that people had made a mistake, as on the night distancing was inadequate given there was singing, and also people stayed on chatting for half an hour.

HR added that as an organised event, it could well have attracted a police presence with potential implications for the organisers. A risk assessment and measures should have been in place, with stewards, or the event shouldn't have gone ahead.

- b) BT asked the group's advice on a national '**Doorstep carols**' event for Wed 15th December. It was agreed that doorstep meant a single household and distanced. An email would be sent out, emphasising correct behaviour for Tier 2, and the organisers call to "stay on your doorsteps and sing your hearts out". **Action BT**
- c) **Bells at 6pm Xmas Eve** : Bells had been bought for children by BT & ZH.
- d) BT had sent HR a set of guidelines from ZH, sent out by **Somerset Council** about safety in the Christmas period, mainly what to do if you needed to isolate because of contact with an infected person. HR did not think it suitable to send out because new government advice is very likely to be issued about risks, and possibly by 16 December. (See also 11 below)

HN: She sought clarification whether volunteers who'd stood down should be removed from the WhatsApp group. It was agreed to leave them in-place as they could choose to leave WhatsApp, or stay informed and potentially help in future when their circumstance may change.

7. **Problems and lessons learned**

Nothing to report

8. **Consideration of updates from UK government or Wiltshire Council**

Nothing to report

9. **Data Protection**

See item 2 above

10. **Training**

Nothing to report

11. **Any other business**

11.1 **Covid, risks and advice**

In concluding discussion:

- a) HR summarise emerging evidence about Covid that was influencing the view of risks. There is a more virulent strain, and higher numbers of asymptomatic cases become apparent. In some areas, the number of cases is rising and higher tiers may be applied in the coming days.
- b) In discussion it was recognised that new government guidelines are to be expected on 16th December. A change in tone from government was already heard; e.g. the mixing of three household over Christmas may be allowed, but "you don't have to". ID added that fatigue was playing a role in people's behaviour.
- c) It was the strong feeling of the meeting that the community needed clear guidance and firm advice on risks, and resolved to provide that in the coming days. BT and HR would confer and write a suitable email. **Action HR and BT**

11.2 It was decided that the group will meet in a week.

Date of next meeting: 19.00 Monday 21st December 2020

16 December 20