

Quidhampton Covid-19 Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting of the steering group 19.00 on Monday 19th July 2021 via Zoom

Present: Ian Day ID, Howard Rowley *HR (chair), Hannah Newnham HN, Jane Taylor JT, Ken Taylor *KT (minutes, zoom facilitator), Bea Tilbrook BT (village communicator)
*parish councillors

Copy to : Zoe Hoare ZH, Jane Morgan JM

1. **Apologies for absence** - none.

2. **Approval of minutes** – The minutes for the meeting held on Monday 21st June 2021 were approved.

3. **Matters Arising**

4 re mtg 21/6 Risk for the Garden Show had been assessed by HR & ID and advice provided.

8 KT reported that the SWWAB meeting had dealt with matters other than Covid. Wiltshire Council's online briefing on 15th July was comprehensive (see below) about the government advice being issued for the further opening from 19th July.

4. **Chair (HR)**

- HR stated that in theory society reopened today, however sensible procedures were essential. He commended the White Horse for continuing their existing strict procedures
- Parish council 27th July : the meeting would be conducted in the village hall , limiting numbers to 15 and adopting the hall's procedures, notably for masks except when seated and social distancing and open ventilation. Notice was being required by members of the public wishing to attend.
- Meetings 31st July: The public consultation on Lower Road traffic calming, and the Annual Parish meeting would be held on Saturday afternoon at the White horse marquee, adopting the White Horse' Covid procedures.

In discussion, members remarked as follows:

- HR takes a test daily owing to a near contact, not pinged. Mixing without masks was not advised.
- Most people were seen wearing mask on buses (ID's acquaintance). A college in Laverstock had been closed owing to staff isolation.
- HN had been pinged and is isolating, with a PCR test kit ordered online. She would circulate the link for communication by village email. **Action HN and BT**

5. **Volunteer coordinator's reports**

JT:

- Since the meeting in late June, she had made six phone calls, received four, and had 21 face to face contacts, some in homes wearing a mask. A resident had been injured while away from home, but is now recovering at home with care from family. One of the oldest residents was now in hospital and it was difficult to get information about her.
- The Noticing Nature workshops by Artist James Aldridge that JT had arranged were all well received.

In discussion:

- on being asked whether older people appeared more relaxed, JT remarked that older people were seen to be behaving as before though with some exceptions.
- HR remarked that the first pub quiz for 16 months had been held and the book club had met in the pub.

6. **Committee members reports**

BT: committee members were aware that anti vax leaflets had been found in some books in the book exchange and one poster in the village. They had been removed and there had been no repetition of this.

KT – reported that the watchword was 'Caution' at the online Wiltshire Council briefing on 15th July. 'We will not be reverting to the pre-pandemic situation,' Wiltshire Council CEO Terry Herbert had remarked. He was joined by the Head of Public Health and the Nurse directing the vaccination program in 35 minutes of facts and advice. **Action KT to circulate the link.**

(here is the link)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoqDMMAKu_s

The CEO was self-isolating as his son has Covid. His comments included: limited close contact with others, a gradual return to work, face coverings in crowded spaces, high risk setting to use a Covid pass in future, and schools to continue existing practice. HR said that the rules are expected to change so self-isolation isn't necessary if twice vaccinated, and a test is taken every day.

HR would contact BT after the meeting to clarify the issue about not having to quarantine under particular circumstances, so that advice could be emailed. **Action HR**

Items 7/8/9/10 & 11 were taken together for general discussion:

7. **Problems and lessons learned**
8. **Consideration of updates from UK government or Wiltshire Council**
9. **Data Protection**
10. **Training**
11. **Any other business**

Discussion:

- ID felt that vaccination of the young was certainly the main issue on Covid. BT mentioned the issue of long Covid. No-one has heard of 'long flu', which should be a persuasive point to make to those who say the situation is now like that of flu. ID said that Africa was a big concern, where only 1% of the population was vaccinated. Without action, we could all revert to 'square one'.
- Effect of the long term restrictions: BT said we can never know exactly how individuals are suffering or reacting. For example she does not risk the train at present, so is denied London theatre which has been very important to her mental health in the past. She remarked her village book group now meets distanced, outdoors, but wonder what they will choose or have to do in winter. They had met throughout the pandemic on Zoom.
- The group concluded that care for the vulnerable and persuading younger people to be vaccinated were key issues. 'How to help' better needed the group's thought and everyone's attention.
- Suggested email topics: we are here if you need help while isolating; be prepared - masks are required in some places; keep testing regularly with description of how to get tests; current rules for visiting Salisbury District Hospital; get vaccinated. **Action: BT**

Date of next meeting: This was set for **19.00 Monday 23rd August**, though group members should call and earlier meeting if they felt it to be necessary.

21 July 2021