

Quidhampton Covid-19 Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting of the steering group 19.00 on Monday 23rd August 2021 via Zoom

Present: 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** - Ian Day ID (family reasons)
2. **Approval of minutes** – The minutes for the meeting held on Monday 19th July were approved.
3. **Matters Arising**
 6. The issue of not legally having to quarantine was changed by events. It would be discussed later in the meeting (See discussion item 6 below). HR remarked that a double-vaccinated friend was seriously ill with Covid.
4. **Chair (HR)**

HR:

 - Had observed that that distancing remains important. Social responsibility seemed poor in general, as experienced traveling by train last week.
 - Feels pleased that the White Horse maintains procedures, including masks. Understands they have banned people who refuse. The motivation includes protecting their staff and business.
 - Observes that people seem to have relaxed in public in general, though pleasingly not in the village where more care seems to be taken.
 - KT understood that the village hall maintains limits on numbers, and the existing procedures. There had been no recent review by the hall committee. Wiltshire Council's latest briefing had emphasised that Covid numbers had been going up.
 - JT had observed that mask wearing was prevalent in the local shops and on the buses.

5. Volunteer coordinator's reports

JT:

- Since the meeting in late July, she had made twelve calls, received five and had ten face to face encounters. An older resident was in hospital for observation. She had met near neighbours twice who were in receipt of regular care.
- The Noticing Nature workshops with a small group of older people and visiting artist had been well received by participants.
- Techie Tea Parties took place twice in August in the village hall, aimed at developing online capabilities, and were regarded as very helpful by participants. More sessions are envisaged by the organisers.

6. Committee members reports

No-one had additional matters to report.

The following arose in discussion, with action decided as an advisory village email:

- There was seen to be ambiguity in the government guidelines, which left matters on Covid exposure and isolation to people's "own discretion". Although legal requirements were dropped in the event of being pinged, the guidance on the government website remained essentially little changed (e.g. in respect to protection of the vulnerable).
- Personal responsibility on which government based the relaxation seem little understood. HR felt it was unfortunate we had lost the rules. Local procedures will be adopted by e.g. shops, the hospital and other medical facilities and businesses.
- BT wished to know how much contact counted as 'contact', believing that the Covid App said 15 minutes in close proximity. JT added that the first question on a hospital visit by her had been 'Have you been in contact with someone with Covid'.
- It was concluded that a village email e.g. on personal responsibility would be helpful. BT offered to make a draft and send it to HR for comment.

Action BT

Items 7/8/9/10 & 11 – nothing specific to be added.

7. Problems and lessons learned

8. Consideration of updates from UK government or Wiltshire Council

9. Data Protection

10. Training

11. Any other business

- KT advised that the Zoe Project had started offering antibody tests to its volunteers who had had possible Covid symptoms but had not had a test. It was not known whether they tested for both Covid antibodies and antibodies resulting from vaccination.
(in the event KT was sent a result – negative – for ‘having had Covid in the last six months’. The lab hadn’t tested for the antibodies from vaccination)
- JT ask whether anyone knew of villagers who may be particularly vulnerable. Some residents with previous known problems were mentioned, and felt to be coping or supported.
- Looking forward, towards seasonal events (though none are currently planned) it was suggested by HR that the village hall committee could perhaps review what they do? KT wondered whether there was usefully updated external advice (say) from the village halls association.

Date of next meeting: This was set for **19.00 Monday 20th September**

9 Sept 21