

Stutton Support Network

Annual General Meeting Monday 17th October, 2016

Present: Jayne Jones, Roberta Garrad, Avril Park, David Park, Penny Fairie, John Fairie, Ian Flower, Janet White, Frances Blackwell, Gay Strutt, Heidi Chartres, Derek Chartres, Sarah Gray, Sue Hewlett, Nick Pavitt, Alison Jones, Adrian Garnham, Ian Heywood, Jane Pavitt, Jenny Morris.

Apologies: Fran Flower, Penny Greenland, Susan Hemming, Carol Tilbury, Pam Foster, Mike Foster, Helena Rodwell, Naomi Newton, Caroline Waller, Sandy Fox

Minutes of AGM 2nd September 2015: The Minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising that aren't already on tonight's agenda.

Chair's Report

In Fran Flower's absence, Ian Heywood (Vice Chair) reported:

Our Volunteers have now responded to 300 requests for assistance since we started in October 2014. We have never had to say we could not help. Most requests have been for lifts but others have been for things like dog walking, shopping, visiting, minor DIY tasks, collecting prescriptions, helping with forms and the internet, and so on. We have set up two visiting rota for people who are socially isolated and one of our volunteers holds regular tea parties.

Community Transport: This issue was raised by Penny Clark at last year's AGM and earlier this year it became clear that the new community transport contract was not working well, reflected in an increase in requests for lifts from people who would previously have used Buzzabout. We wrote to our MP, James Cartlidge, about the reduction in the community transport service. He offered to meet with us and following this meeting he promised to arrange for us to meet with the person in charge of the community transport contract at Suffolk County Council together with the contractor. This has not so far happened but we are following it up.

'In emergency' Network: Reminder to the patch coordinators that winter is a-comin' in, and they might need to leaflet their areas in the event of a sudden onset of bad weather, or a power cut. Let us know if you can't find the leaflets we gave out last winter, which weren't required at the time, and we will re-supply you.

Advice and information: On occasion one or two of us have helped out older villagers who have needed help with tricky matters such as banking, or wills. The Co-ordinating Group feels that this sort of need might increase future, so

it might be a good idea to get some professional advice on how to do it – what to do and what not to do, etc. Suffolk Brokerage has been recommended to us as an organisation who might be able to provide something like a half day session to give us the advice and information we might need in these kinds of situations. We hope that one or two of the volunteers might come along to that and will provide further information when it is available/

Co-ordinating Group: The current Coordinating Group of four people agreed to do it for the first three years. Next year's AGM will mark the end of that period, so perhaps we could start preparing others to take over. We thought it might be a good idea for anyone who might be interested in being part of the Co-ordinating Group to come along to one of our meetings to see what we do. We meet about every two months and will email everyone further about this.

And finally: A gentle reminder to volunteers to let the coordinator know when the task has been done, and if there were any problems.

Treasurer's report

Jane Pavitt reported that our current bank balance is £755.13. We are very grateful for the continuing support of the Parish Council and also for the donations of reimbursed travel expenses from our volunteers.

Date of next AGM:

Tuesday 5th September 2017.

The formal AGM closed and Adrian Garnham and his colleague delivered a HeartStart course.