

# **Aldringham cum Thorpe Good Neighbours Scheme**

**Annual General Meeting Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Held in The Tower Room, Margaret Ogilvie Almshouses,  
Thorpeness**

## **Minutes**

Approx 14 people attended

### **1. Guest Speaker**

Our Chairman Pippa McLardy introduced Mike Doy, our local expert bee man who could not make it last year. Mike proceeded to give us a fascinating talk and expressed his enthusiasm for returning to Thorpeness to give a longer more in depth talk (with props) to other Aldringham-cum-Thorpe groups.

### **2. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Mair Dawson, John & Elizabeth Tipping, Jane McLoughlin, Jill Hubbard, Arthur & Joy Day, Brian Davies, Sue Allen & Maureen Jones.

### **3. The Minutes of the 2018 AGM.**

Proposed by Michael Sturmeay and seconded by Michael Hall the minutes of the 2018 AGM were unanimously approved.

### **4. Welcome by Chairman and Chairman's Report**

Pippa welcomed everyone to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting with a special welcome to Sally Connick from Community Action Suffolk, who is responsible for Good Neighbours schemes in Suffolk.

Pippa reported that it had been a slightly fraught year on the Steering Group, largely owing to the fact that all the honorary officers were wanting or needing to step down, but that there had not been anyone very keen to step into the breach. It has become a convention that three years was long enough for the Chairperson, and that her three years were now over. Sydney had done longer still as Secretary and Treasurer, and was also keen to give up. However she had kindly agreed to stay on as both treasurer, which she is happy to remain as, and secretary until someone is prepared to take over secretarial duties from her. As far as a new chair was concerned, Pippa had managed to twist Wendy's arm so

that she is prepared to act as chairperson, but when elected, she will only be serving for a year. Pippa would be nominating Michael Hall to join the Steering Group, and if elected, there is a cunning plan for him to stand as Chairman next year – only time, and Michael, will tell if we succeed in this dastardly plot!

Since the last AGM, Pippa reported that we had carried out 106 tasks, 23 of which involved visits to hospitals in Ipswich. Even more involved lifts to other medical facilities in various towns in East Suffolk. Our every-ready-super-handyman Pete had perhaps the most unusual task – dismantling a basin wastepipe in a fruitless hunt for a tooth-crown. Hours of fun!

We still have 31 volunteers – no new recruits – and 24 regular users – when I say regular, these may be people making use of us once a year, and did not include those of us who volunteers, AND seek assistance from time to time.

We are again very grateful to the Parish Council for their continuing financial support, and to everyone who contributes to the hampers we raffled, the proceeds of which bolster general coffers and, finance the Christmas volunteer coffee morning.

Pippa concluded with a big thank you, especially to her “trustworthy” Steering Group but also to all the volunteers for their help during the last three years.

## **5. Treasurer’s Report**

Sydney Graham reported that general donations and proceeds from raffles held at the Garden Party and Volunteers Coffee morning were £178.03, down £47.97 from last year. In addition we received £200 from the Parish Council (for which we were very grateful) and a £20.00 voucher from the Co-op towards our Garden Party. Expenses were up by £54.07 from last year. However, we did have an extraordinary payment to one of our volunteers of £78.00 for insurance excess when the volunteer’s window was shattered by a stone while carrying out a GN task. We only carry Public Liability Insurance. The cost of the Volunteers Coffee Morning actually went down £36.00 but we had some added expenses for the Garden Party this year. The Public Liability Insurance remained the same at £79.80. There was currently £345.94 in the bank account and £182.36 in petty cash. Year-end statements were available for anyone wanting to look at them. Finally, Sydney thanked Roger for reviewing the accounts and as usual, Sydney said there was a donation box available for anyone who would like to put in a penny or two.

## **6. Election of the Steering Group**

Pippa McLardy advised the meeting that there were two nominations to elect the Steering Group as follows:

Chairperson: Wendy Sturmeay

Secretary: Sydney Graham  
Treasurer: Sydney Graham  
Steering Group: Wendy Sturme, Sydney Graham, Pippa McLardy, Peter Holmes, Jill Hubbard, Michael Sturme and Ben O'Dwyer

In addition, Pippa proposed and Sydney seconded that Michael Hall (who had agreed to run) be elected to the Steering Group

Upon a show of hands, all candidates were unanimously elected to the Steering Group.

## 7. **AOB**

There was a general discussion about transport available within our area with Mike Trapp advising that CATS had put up their fares and Sally Connick telling the meeting about a new scheme which she found but which she thought was only operating in the Ipswich area, called Driving Miss Daisy. Sally will forward information on this scheme to Pippa and Sydney.

Wendy presented Pippa with a small appreciation of our thanks for her Chairmanship during the last three years.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned for a glass of bubbly courtesy of our past Chairperson with everyone's thanks!**