

Aldringham cum Thorpe Good Neighbour Scheme

AGM via Zoom at 6pm on Tuesday April 27th

Attended by five members of the Steering Group (Michael Hall – Out-going Chairman, Jill Hubbard - acting Chairperson, Pippa McLardy- Hon Sec, Joy Day – Membership Sec, Andrea Gray – Tech Sec) and six volunteers/members of the public

1. **Welcome** - Acting Chairperson Jill Hubbard welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** – John and Elizabeth Tipping, Sydney Graham (Hon Treas), Sara Paulley and Paul and Maria Chapman-Beer.
3. **Ratification** of Steering Group decision to defer AGM last year owing to the Covid Pandemic
Proposed: Pippa McLardy Seconded: Michael Hall – carried unanimously.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the AGM 2019**
Proposed: Christine Laschet Seconded: Wendy Sturmeay
5. **Chairman’s Report by Michael Hall.**

Michael thanked Jill for stepping into the Chair, which he felt he had to relinquish because of health issues.

Good Neighbours had stepped up well to provide help at the outbreak of the pandemic and communicated well with existing volunteers and with others who came forward to offer help. He thanked all volunteers, and especially the temporary ones. He was aware that during the peak time, many jobs were being done in the best traditions of good neighbourliness that went unrecorded in our official list.

He thanked Wendy Sturmeay for her time in the Chair from 2019 to 2020, and he had earlier presented her with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her year of service, which she showed us on screen. She had in particular been responsible for the idea of a collection among volunteers for a bench to commemorate founder member Roger Searle, which had proved enormously successful. Thorpeness and Aldringham Heritage Group had also assisted by providing a space outside their hut for the bench, which they had also kindly stored through the winter. They hoped the bench might be placed in situ at their grand opening, possibly as soon as the end of May.

He thanked those members of the Steering Group who had retired during the year; Wendy and Mick Sturmeay and Peter Holmes, and Ben O’Dwyer, who with his wife and co-volunteer Eleanor has moved to Norwich.

He also expressed gratitude to two new members of the Steering Group; Joy Day who has become Membership Secretary overseeing newly joining members and their DBS certification, and Andrea Gray, who is already proving her worth as our new tech expert by hosting this evening’s Zoom meeting.

Finally he thanked Sydney Graham for her long and sterling service as treasurer, and Pippa McLardy for work as secretary.

Jill responded by thanking Michael for his demanding year as chairman, and wished him a speedy return to good health. She hoped we might sometime soon be able to have a convivial gathering to thank him properly and mark his year in office. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and said what a wonderful job members had done during these

difficult times. She was particularly pleased to see our younger neighbours becoming involved while older folk (like herself) had to take a back seat. She thanked them all, and also our local publicans Chris and David, who worked so hard delivering boxes of groceries to people isolating (obeying Government instructions to the letter). She hoped some temporary members would in due course become full-time volunteers. She looked forward to the future when she might see everyone without having to use Zoom.

6. Treasurer's report by Sydney Graham

Sydney apologised for not being able to join the Zoom meeting owing to problems with her broadband connection. Pippa read her report:-

'Just to recap on 2019-2020 as we did not have an Annual General Meeting – we received £200 grant from the Parish Council, proceeds from two raffles – (one at the Garden Party and the other at the Volunteers Coffee Morning) were £238.00 and general donations were £42.00. We paid out the same amount as the year before for insurance of £79.80, purchased a new phone for £40.00, paid for the Volunteers Coffee Morning £145.00 and paid for a couple of DBS checks. We ended the year with funds available to us of £709.50.

2020-2021. We raised £1,226.00 for Roger's Bench, paid £782.27 for the actual bench and engraving and the balance of £443.73 was donated to the Thorpeness Aldringham Heritage Group. We received £87.00 in general donations and for the raffle on Zoom at our "take-away lunch" we raised £265.00. Insurance was the same at £79.80, phone expenses were £25.00, the "take-away lunch" sub was £65.50 and we had a small miscellaneous expense of £20.00. Total funds available for us at the end of the year is £871.20.

Thank you to Andrew McLardy for looking over the accounts for the last two years, a task previously carried out by Roger Searle for many years. '

Acceptance of treasurer's report :- Proposed: Wendy Sturmeay Seconded: Joy Day

7. Election of Steering Group

Chairperson - Jill Hubbard Proposer: P. McLardy Seconder: M. Hall

Hon Sec - Pippa McLardy Proposer: Maria Chapman-Bier Seconder: Michael Hall

Hon Treas - Sydney Graham Proposer: P McLardy Seconder Maria Chapman-Bier

Remaining Steering Group – Proposer: Maria Chapman-Bier Seconder: Andrew McLardy

David Jenkins offered himself for co-option onto the Steering Group Proposer: Jill Hubbard Seconder Pippa McLardy

All were elected unopposed.

8. Any Other Business

Jill reminded volunteer drivers that it is important they ask for the agreed 45p per mile travel expenses, especially when making long trips, such as to Ipswich Hospital. Even if drivers do not wish to keep the money themselves (although this is quite acceptable), the charge should be made, and if preferred, the money donated to Good Neighbours or a charity of the driver's choice. This is fairer for local taxi drivers, who might otherwise be competing with a completely free offering, and also means certain volunteers are not frequently selected by clients who know they will get their ride for free! Anyone holding the

phone should please try to remember to tell clients that a charge of 45p per mile will apply. Currently the rate to Ipswich Hospital is £25.

Jill also suggested that when gatherings are allowed, there should be some training meetings for volunteers, especially those who have recently joined, and phone holders.

A phone holder had said it was difficult to hear on the phone. Jill hoped this had now been solved, and pointed out that there were ear pieces included in the GN bag, which might help.