

Friends in Deed

-there for the people of Buckden

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.30PM THE LINCOLN ROOM, BUCKDEN MILLENNIUM CENTRE

1. WELCOME

Ally welcomed everyone to the AGM, there were 30 people in attendance ,list of names available.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Brenda Steadman, Jennifer Davies, Dorothy Priest, Helen Cotterill Ken & Patsy Gray, Linda Upham, Jane Shepard & Dr Fagnoli.

3. MINUTES OF AGM MEETING OCTOBER 2008

The minutes of the 2008 AGM were agreed as a true copy and signed by Ally.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the 2008 minutes.

5. CHANGES TO RULES (see notes below)

Ally explained the changes to the rules. As Friends in Deed has developed and grown it has become apparent that a Deputy Co ordinator is needed and added to the rules. The PCC has agreed the changes. The changes were proposed by Rachel Noble and seconded by Sue Paul.

6. REPORT BY CO-ORDINATOR

Jennifer Cox reported that FiD had had another successful year and there were now 30 clients along with a team of 29 visitors. 4 new visitors had joined this year. Over the 4 years that FiD has been active and about 60 people have been visited. Sheila Thomas has moved away and Jennifer extended her thanks for all the support that Sheila has given. As other parishes have found out about FiD Jennifer & Ann Arran have this year visited Brampton, Lt Paxton & Eltisley and given talks on how to set up a similar scheme for themselves .Brampton has now set up 'Brampton Befrienders' and the other 2 parishes are setting up similar schemes. FiD has supported the Quiet Christmas Service and held 2 successful tea parties in February & August .Jennifer thanked Patsy Gray for organising both parties and Miles & Pam Falla for hosting the summer party. Over 40 people attended each of the parties .In February David Moore from the Alzheimer's society came to give a very informative talk which was very well attended .This year FiD has formed a link with Care Network a

charitable foundation run by Cambridgeshire County Council. Jennifer welcomed Heather Corbishley from Care Network to the AGM. Several members of FiD have attended two excellent training days organised by Care Network one covering welcome home from hospital visiting and the other was supporting the transport service .Both were very informative and certificates were awarded to attendees.

As FiD has grown and continues to get involved in more activities, Jennifer felt this was the right time to step down as Co ordinator and give somebody else the opportunity to develop it further. She thanked everyone especially Ally, St Mary's PCC and the local GP's for all their support and wished FiD continued success.

7.REPORT BY CHAIR

Ally thanked Jennifer for all her hard work over the last 4 years and presented her with a gift. Christine Lawrence has agreed to take over the role of Co ordinator. Christine will work alongside Jennifer until the end of 2009 to ensure the hand over goes smoothly. The breadth of work that FiD covers has now grown and with the support of Care Network , Christine will contact visitors over the next few months to gain an understanding of their work. Ally explained the changes that have been made to the new leaflets and how they have been updated. She felt it was a big move forward now that FiD comes under the umbrella of Care Network and introduced Heather Corbishley who gave a very informative talk to the meeting.

8.CARE NETWORK – Heather Corbishley

Heather explained how Care Network was set up approximately 25 years ago in a similar way to FiD, in a church at Comberton near Cambridge. This scheme was so successful that as it grew they approached the District Council for support. Now 14 staff are employed by Cambs C.C. Their expertise is there to support around 100 groups similar to FiD throughout the county. They help over 40 car schemes, book cafes, lunch clubs, mobile warden schemes and 'welcome home from hospital' schemes – this is where the hospital will contact Care Network to arrange for a visitor to meet the patient and help them settle back at home.

9.APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Rachel Noble nominated Ally Barrett as Chairman and Hilary Grant as Secretary this was seconded by Howard Cox.

10.ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The following people were nominated to form the committee :Ally Barrett, Hilary Grant, Christine Lawrence, Miles Falla, Rachel Noble, Patsy Gray, Hazel Wilcox, Ann Arran and Brenda Steadman. Proposed by Bernard Moss and seconded by Pam Falla.

SPEAKER

Following the meeting James Falla gave a talk about Debt Control. He explained that debt can be a problem whether it is 50p or £500k.It affects both young and old. Our culture has changed in such a way that generally people no longer save and want new things now rather than waiting until they have saved for them.

This is ok whilst they borrow within their means, but when the unexpected happens such as unemployment, illness or pregnancy and their income is reduced, suddenly it is a struggle to make the repayments. They may even borrow more to try to sort things out. This then results in 'debt problems'.

James explained how he is able to help people work out their income/expenditure plan and sometimes arrange with creditors to reduce the amount they pay back . Sadly sometimes it may need formal actions such as bankruptcy or IVA, but positively it can result in people learning how to manage their finances and eventually learning how to save.

Ally concluded the evening by thanking James, Heather and everybody else and invited everyone to partake in light refreshments of cheese and wine .