

Croft Good Neighbours

Minutes of Meeting - AGM

6.30 Tuesday 8 November 2022 Venue: Heathcote Arms

Item	Detail	Action
Attendance	Ray Armstrong, Julie Halliwell, Chris Hevey, Kath Muir (chair), Deb Summers (secretary), Janet Thompson (treasurer) & Di Wing	
Apologies	Penny Hevey, Gill Nuttall, Marjie Smith & Julie Wilkins	
<u>Events since last meeting</u>		
30 April Garden gathering	Drinks & nibbles in Kath's garden. 14 volunteers (with partners) gathered to welcome our four new volunteers, Penny & Chris Hevey, David Mason and Kath Akoslovski - has been a volunteer since COVID started but had not met many of the other volunteers. Lovely Spring evening, good to see so many.	
30 July Ray's BBQ	Ray very generously invited all CGN volunteers to a BBQ at his place. It was great to see 12 volunteers and partners relax and chat, with super food! as we don't get to see each other often.	
23 Sept Litter Pick	The day before the Croft Canter (a 10 mile run in aid of charity) five of us did a litter pick on and around the hill. It was much appreciated. Three of us then did car park duty on the day of the run. As a result of this charity run, CGN were granted £600 from the money raised. This will go towards food & essentials for families in need.	
Accounts	Janet presented the accounts. The balance at present stands at £2900.19, Deb confirmed Bank statement matched accounts. Thanks to Janet for keeping the accounts.	
Jobs recorded	Community phone requests: we have responded to 24 different Croft residents who rang for help. Some have used us many times over the year, others only once or twice. For those who don't have transport CGN are a vital support. There have been 81 requests so far this year (2021 there were 110 request, 2020 - 132, 2019 – 168) this is made up of 43 lifts (mostly) medical appointments, 13 shopping trips, 7 wanting information, 1 befriending, 1 DIY and the rest cancelled or no one available due to short notice. Although this is a much reduced number from two years ago, those individuals who use us regularly are extremely grateful and they would really struggle to get to appointments without CGN volunteer drivers.	
Food boxes	Since January we have delivered Cupcakes to 32 elderly Croft residents who mostly live alone. This Cup Cake project was an extension of what we did for a much larger group during 2020 and 2021. The Food Box project ended in April 2022 with the funding from LCC Household Support fund, the Blaby DC prize money (Runner up award for the community group of the year) and donations from local residents. We helped 10 different families over two years since May 2020 with Food Boxes.	
AOB	As the cost of living crisis ramps up during winter, with Gas and Electricity prices increasing and people using more, we could get more request for help,	

<p>AOB CONTINUED</p>	<p>especially food boxes. With this in mind the officers had discussed applying for funds to ASDA (suggested by Di Wing). This is something we will look into should we get requests.</p> <p>We have purchased Asda vouchers for 6 families the school has identified as in need. The vouchers have restrictions (no alcohol, cigarettes or lottery etc) and these have been given to the school to hand over. Ray offered future funds if needed.</p> <p>Di has asked if CGN volunteers could help with delivering of the Happy Circle Christmas hampers. Please let Kath or Di know if you are able to help.</p> <p>It was proposed that CGN could use some of the remaining Coop vouchers to buy our users a Christmas gift (mince pies, Xmas pudding or cake, or box of chocs).</p> <p>Village Flower Boxes (Arbor/Windermere & Arbor/Broughton Road). The current group looking after them are unable to continue. Deb will contact the Parish Council to find out who is responsibly for their upkeep. Is this something our volunteers would like to take on or could we contact the Allotment Society to see if they would help? Julie H said she knows somebody in the AS and will ask.</p> <p>There is an Angel festival at the Church and they are looking for volunteers to help. Contact Claire on 07929 915 405 if you are able to.</p> <p>There is a fete at the school on 3 Dec – Janet will contact to book table – details to follow.</p> <p>Julie H and Ray mentioned our Flyers. Julie knows someone who could produce one and we decided a 'Merry Christmas from CGN' for the PC notice boards. Thanks to Julie H</p> <p>Di mentions a 'Warm Homes' idea – inviting someone to spend time in one house to save on bills. Also mentioned the Blue Badge scheme – could we suggest our users apply for one – our drivers could use when giving them lifts.</p> <p>Chris mentioned the fee for lifts - Kath explained it is explained there is a small charge but it is totally up to the individual volunteer if they mention/take it and if they personally don't want to keep it they can hand in to one of the officers and we will log it as a donation. Some service users like to give to express their gratitude and so it's less like charity.</p> <p>Collection boxes were mentioned but it was felt this was not a good idea (and we are not a charity).</p> <p>We will be sending Christmas cards out – about 60 villagers – Deb will contact volunteers to see who can help deliver them when she has finalised figures and Streets</p> <p>It was asked if any volunteer would like to take on any of the three officers positions, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary – Ray said he would be interested in the Treasurers position. If you are interested please let one of the officers know. Deb mentioned Janet and herself have been doing it for quite a few years and stressed if someone does not come forward CGN could fold.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed at 7.30 PM</p>	