

CROFT GOOD NEIGHBOURS

MINUTES OF MEETING

7pm FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2023 VENUE: 13 BROUGHTON ROAD

| Item | Detail | Action |
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| ATTENDANCE | Kath Akoslovski, Ray Armstrong, Brian Castledine, David Mason, Gill Nuttall, Janet Thompson, Marjie Smith, Deb Summers, Julie & Andrew Wilkins & Di Wing | |
| APOLOGIES | Geoff Bodycote, Pippa Chapman, Chris Greenhill, Chris & Penny Hevey and Rachel Summers We thanked Julie and Andrew Wilkins for their warm hospitality | |
| CHAIR OF CGN - KATH MUIR | <p>Following introductions, we spoke informally of our loss following the death of Kath, the circumstances leading to her death, and shared some thoughts and feelings. Janet formally reported the following:</p> <p>As Croft Good Neighbours volunteers, we are devastated to record the sudden loss of our Chairperson, Kath Muir, who died on 26th December 2023. She carried out her role in a most excellent way, being organised, pro-active; warm hearted and a friend. Particular users have related their debt to Kath for all she did for them. We have sent tributes to her husband, Colin, to Croft Parish Council for their newsletter and have posted an item on our website. We also informed the District and County Councils. We informed all those we helped last year, all those on Christmas lists. We advised all who were not in Happy Circle of the memorial meeting. A number of volunteers attended Kath's memorial, on 14th February 2023. Croft Good Neighbours will of course continue. We know that it is of great value to the village, and we are sure it is what Kath would have wanted and know that it is what her family do want.</p> <p>Currently we have no Chair person. Deb and Janet are working closely together to cover what Kath did. We hope to be able to appoint a new chair later on in the year should someone come forward.</p> | |
| FUNDING APPLICATIONS | Kath Akoslovski has offered to take over one of Kath's roles, which was to deal with funding bids for CGN. We accept her offer with many thanks. Kath A is now our Funding Person. | KA |
| VILLAGE CUP | Di Wing reported that the previous winner of the cup (who felt she did not deserve the Cup) thought it should have gone to our Chair Kath Muir. Di brought forward a suggestion that we nominate Kath for a posthumous award of the Croft Village Cup this year, or a petition be organised. Kath was nominated last year by some of the CGN volunteers. Di told us that the Parish Council do not award anyone working as part of a group. The merits and concerns regarding nominating Kath for a posthumous award were discussed. Some of those present expressed an interest in writing to the Croft Parish Council <i>individually</i> to nominate Kath for the Croft Village Cup and it was agreed this was the way forward. Deb invited any further comments on the Village Cup to be sent to herself or Janet, to be followed up at the next meeting | ALL |
| MEMORIAL BENCH | As an alternative way of celebrating Kath's life and to create a 'permanent' memorial Deb suggested that we might like to consider raising money for a public bench to be erected in Kath's name. We discussed the idea. We were very much in favour of this, subject to the cost involved. Deb invited any further comments on the Bench to be sent to herself or Janet, to be followed up at the next meeting. | ALL |
| ACCOUNTS | Janet presented the accounts. The cashflow spreadsheet was made available. The balance at present stands at £1478.81. Ray reiterated his offer of £1000 donation (this will be used to support the families identified by the school as 'in need'). We thanked Ray for his generous donation. The accounts were checked by Marjie Smith (Sunday 26.02.23) Thanks to Janet for keeping the accounts | JT |
| EXPENSES | Public Liability Insurance this year cost £128.80, Janet explained what this covers and the importance of generating 'jobs' through the phone and wearing the CGN lanyards when carrying out tasks. | JT |
| JOBS RECORDED | We have undertaken 14 jobs, 10 lifts, 1 unable to help (short notice) 2 requesting information (one wanting a taxi that could accommodate a person in a wheelchair – CommunityTransport Blaby can help 0116 288 7482. Fox Connect do not cater for wheelchair users. Details were put in the phone book) 1 Gardening. Sadly a few of the service users have died or moved out of the village in the past year. | |

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| OFFICERS POSTS | Janet and Deb had, at previous meetings, expressed the need for a change of officers. Ray Armstrong expressed his interest in the Treasurers position at the last meeting and confirmed it at this meeting (after meeting with Janet to see how she does it). Kath A proposed Ray A to be Treasurer, and it was seconded by Marjie S. All present were in favour and Ray was appointed Treasurer. Janet will oversee the necessary changes to the mandate with Barclays bank. We thanked Ray, and Janet for her past work on the accounts. Janet will continue to organise the Cup Cake Project, be the phone coordinator and support Deb in her role as Secretary until someone wants to take on this role. | JT |
| PHONE ALLOCATION | Previously the phone has been allocated to volunteers on a monthly basis but at present, only Janet and Marjie take turns having the phone. Marjie will have it until the end of March, it will then pass to Janet and then Deb will cover the Easter break as Janet and Marjie are unavailable. Janet is happy to have the phone every other time so she can keep the Jobs sheet update and there is some continuity. We asked volunteers to think about taking a turn having the phone. Please let Deb or Janet know if you are interested. Andrew W suggested we change the answer phone message as it is currently Kath M. Marjie offered to do this. | MS |
| MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: | | |
| CUPCAKE PROJECT | Janet coordinated this task. We will continue to give Cupcakes as a way of 'keeping in touch with a cupcake', April being the last ones for this batch. | JT |
| VILLAGE PLANTERS | 5 people responded to our request to help CGN with the upkeep of the two village planters. We set a date – Friday 17 th March 10 am for the Broughton Rd/Brookes Ave Planter and 2pm for the Windermere/Arbour Rd one – weather permitting. Deb will inform the none CGN with the details. Ideas for plants to use was discussed (existing bulbs/plants to be kept). Deb will purchase everything that is needed. Kath A has some plants we can use for the 'Summer' display. | DS CG BC MS |
| ASDA VOUCHERS | These have been actioned – 4 lots of £50 for 6 families (identified by the school – we do not know who these families are) Nov, Dec, Jan & Feb. We are giving vouchers as an alternative to food boxes, allowing families more choice. | |
| CHRISTMAS POSTER | This was provided by Julie H's friend and was put on the Parish Council notice boards. | |
| CHRISTMAS CARDS | Theses were delivered before Christmas by Kath M, Janet, Julie W and Deb. | |
| AOB | Julie H let us know just after Christmas that she was leaving the village and Leicestershire. We wished her well and thanked her for her enthusiasm and kindness. Di W expressed concerns the CGN could be more effective. She explained that via a RCC/LCC new initiative James White – Community Recovery Worker will be meeting with the Happy Circle to discuss ways he can help that group. Janet has arranged a meeting with James (24 March 1pm) to speak to us to see how he could help CGN users. Gill was interested in attending this meeting. If you are interested in attending please let Janet know ASAP | ALL |
| WEBSITE & FACEBOOK UPDATES | Gill asked if anyone had the skills and equipment to provide a back-up for maintaining the website and our FB site, should anything happen to her. Julie and Andrew W offered and will liaise with Gill to see what it entails. Deb asked to be kept in the loop. | GN AW JW |
| LITTERPICK | Deb asked if anyone would like to organise a 'Litter pick' and to let her know. Brian said he would be interested. Details to be discussed at the next meeting. | BC |
| HAPPY CIRCLE 'CORONATION' PARTY | Di mentioned the HC will be having a 'Coronation' party at Elmsthorpe village hall. | |
| LEICESTER ANIMAL AID | Kath A mentioned they have a coffee morning on the 1 st Saturday of the month 10am to 1pm, plus they have some great bargains in their charity shop! | |
| WHATSAPP | Gill mentioned setting up a CGN WhatsApp group – ideas welcome please. | ALL |
| CUP CAKES FOR THE CORONATION | Ray A mentioned having cup cakes to mark King Charles Coronation – 6 May 2023. This was welcomed by all. Janet to liaise with Di ref names & numbers. Di mentioned not to deliver on Wednesday as that is the HC party. Janet to sort names & numbers and organise buying and delivery of cakes. | JT DW |
| | WE DID NOT SET A DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING- THIS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER MEETING ENDED 9.15PM | |