



Minutes of AGM 3rd February 2007 at Cornerstone Centre, Church Road, Hove

Members present

Connie French, Jackie Campbell, Jackie Petty, Katy Wheatland, Keith Turner, Paul Gillett (chair), Rose McCormick, Ruby Woolvern, Shirley West,

Plus volunteers Jonathan Dutton and Sue Joseph

Guest: Christine Tester (East Sussex Association for the Blind)

Apologies

Chris Dutton, Mick Etheridge, Dorothy Duboisson, Louise Eaton, Jim and Val Lee, Mark Aylott and Christina Mendez.

1. Introductions

Christine Tester of East Sussex Association for the Blind was introduced. ESAB mostly works with older people. She makes home visits to inform blind and partial sighted people about available services. If people are alone, she can read their mail, provide Talking News, help obtain adaptations, CCTV, computer

packages e.g. Jaws. She arranges visits and day trips. Jackie Petty agreed ESAB had been very helpful and supportive to her.

ESAB Helpline 01323 832252

There are 13 social groups across East Sussex meeting monthly, one of which is for younger or more mobile people, who go for walks, etc, but none in Brighton because of an historic arrangement with Brighton Society for the Blind.

There was some discussion and concern expressed about the situation of the Brighton Society for the Blind, (now called the Sussex Lantern), and their move away from their Brighton base

- 2. Minutes of last years AGM 4thFeb 06**
were read, agreed and signed, copy available on request
- 3. Chair's report** – Paul presented this to the meeting, copy available
- 4. Treasurer's report** – Jonathan explained the financial position, bank balance was £2788 at 31st Dec 2006, The committee would be looking at new funding in the coming year, the budget for the year was

also presented, a copy of the finance report is available on request

5. Election of Officer

Chair – Paul

proposed Keith, seconded Jackie Petty

Treasurer – Chris

proposed Jackie Campbell, seconded Keith

Secretary – Jackie

proposed Paul, seconded Shirley

Additional Committee Members

Jim – prop. Jackie Campbell, sec. Jackie Petty

Keith – prop. Paul, sec. Jackie Petty

Ruby – prop. Shirley, sec. Paul

Shirley – prop. Jackie Petty, sec. Katy

Co-opted Volunteers

Jonathan Dutton, Sue Joseph

6. Activities

a) Looking Back

There was general agreement that the year's activities had been a great success. Mention was made of the trip to London, the boat trip from the Brighton Marina and the Egyptian sand sculptures and the walk

around the Bluebell Woods near Arlington, East Sussex.

a) Looking ahead

Suggestions included:-

Hampton Court Palace (the building).

Pulborough Brooks, RSPB.

An undercliff walk from Rottingdean.

A walk on the Downs, e.g. South Downs Way.

Windsor Park. Singleton. Longleat.

Sailing. Tandem rides. Ten-pin bowling

Spiral workshops – We have been given an opportunity to participate in these sessions, Funding bids will be made for support to pay for the sessions. There are a range of activities there, including crafts, painting, tactile media, drama, music. They could be morning, afternoon or evening.

7. Any Other Business

a) Audible Bus Stops

RNIB are helping to fund this program. This will involve a key fob about the size of a matchbox and use satellite positioning to identify where you are and to speak the bus numbers and times due. City Synergy has been offered 5 to use in the pilot scheme in

May 07 and report back on their usefulness. There are only 20 bus stops in Brighton that will produce the information, including Churchill Square, the Marina, the Old Steine, London Road, etc. There are other schemes in London and Bristol.

b) Vote of Thanks

Connie expressed her great thanks for all the hard work done by the committee. She said City Synergy was so well organised and the interesting activities were carried out in such a kindly manner. 'We are fortunate to have such a good committee', she said.

c) Wine Tasting

An excellent tasting quiz session organised by Jonathan took place after the meeting

8) Next AGM – Proposed as Sat, 2nd Feb, 2008