

Woodhouse & Woodhouse Eaves Good Neighbour Scheme
Minutes of Open Meeting 3rd February 2017
7.30pm in the New Building

The Open Meeting was an informal evening with a buffet supper for volunteers and other interested members of the community. Approximately 25 members of the public attended, together with 7 members of the steering group.

The Chair Rod Hudson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 Changing the Constitution

The Secretary Claire Ayres (CA) explained that the Steering Group proposed to alter two clauses of the Constitution.

1.1 Under Meetings the Constitution states:

"Shall be held on a regular basis and shall be well advertised and open to the whole community". CA explained that the Steering Group has regular meetings but she was sure that many of the people present would not wish to attend those meetings. The following change was proposed:

"There shall be at least two well-advertised open meetings a year, including the AGM".

1.2 Under The purpose of the Scheme, the Constitution states:

"shall be to provide short term help to the residents of Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves...". CA explained that befriending was part of the Scheme and befriending is not a short-term activity. It was proposed to change "short term" to "ongoing".

There was a unanimous vote to alter both clauses as proposed.

2 Befriending Co-ordinator

The need for a Befriending Co-ordinator was discussed and all present were asked to consider volunteering for this role.

3 How Scheme is running and statistics

The Treasurer Judith Harrison gave an amusing resume with bingo-type cards of how the scheme is running. The main statistics are that we have undertaken 36 jobs since we started on 2nd October 2016, with driving jobs accounting for 24 of these jobs. 24 different volunteers have taken part in one way or another and 10 different people have been helped.

A break for drinks and refreshments followed.

4 Question and answer session

The Publicity Officer Jo Atkinson led the session.

The Safeguarding Officer Lynn Hopkins has kindly put together a comprehensive Contacts List for the village which is now on our website and can be printed off.

It was suggested that people who were lonely should be encouraged to attend events in the village, although mobility might be an issue. The possibility that befrienders could have a specific task to help with was discussed.

The possibility of the GNS having a stall at village events was discussed.

Volunteer drivers agreed that, if taking a client on a single journey, they were not able to claim for the return as well. Volunteer drivers agreed that the mileages charge should start at the client's home. Laminated 'Volunteer Driver' notices and brown envelopes for

cash were available for the volunteer drivers. The label for the envelopes would be added to the website for volunteers to print if necessary.

The Chair Rod Hudson thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was dissolved at approximately 9.30pm.