

Northants 50+ Network - Minutes of Board Meeting

**Monday 5th March 2012 from 2pm to 4pm
At the Weston Favell Parish Hall**

Present:

Pam Tomalin –Secretary (PT) Tony Allen -Vice Chair (TA) John Wevill (JW) Sandra Frampton (SF) Liz Percival (LP) Cllr Eileen Higgins (EH) Jillian Powell (Age UK) Mahmoud Jebli (MJ)

Officers: Pam Wilton Sonja Noon

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome From the Vice Chair</p> <p>Apologies: John Roberts, Brian Cully (Fred Evans has resigned)</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of meeting 06.02.12</p> <p>These were agreed to be a true record, subject to the following amendments, and were signed by the Vice Chair.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Item 8 Review of Plan (1.1) SF wanted an amendment to read that she is willing to contact anyone in the Northampton area and she has already contacted George Jones re walking events.</p>	
3.	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>In the absence of the Chair, copies of his report were circulated and these were read through by all present.</p> <p>This covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCC Budget – Approved on 23rd February. Verbal assurance that provision for the Active Ageing Facilitator post would remain until April 2013. • Future of the Network – The Board need to consider how to take the Network forward, and meeting scheduled with PW and SN on 26th March to discuss transfer of assets, data etc and clarification of support during 2012-13. • Newsletter – JR who edited the current edition of the newsletter, reported that it had taken many hours to do this, and felt that for the future clarification on content may be required. • He advised that he would not be attending the April meeting <p>It was confirmed that JR, TA, BC, and PT would attend the meeting on 26.03.12 @ County Hall</p>	<p>JR,TA, BC PT</p>
4.	<p>Vice Chair's Report</p> <p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA reported that the Northants 50+ Website has now been running for a year • On 25th February TA had the opportunity to talk about the Network on BBC Radio Northampton and reported on what effect the 50+ Website has had on its members • <p>Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to JR for compiling and editing the 'Spring' edition of the newsletter 	<p>JR/PT</p>

	<p>were conveyed and endorsed by all. It will be posted out during the current week and be available on the Website one week later.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • '50+ Insurance' has temporarily withdrawn the offer of 10% off car insurance due to a change in brokers, but 10% discount for 'home and contents' policies available immediately <p>Intergenerational Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 8th February 'Character Faces through the Ages' photo session took place in the Grosvenor Centre, followed by a meeting on 29th to select photos for the display and organise forthcoming exhibition. The first of these to be on 17th March at Age UK in Billing Road. • On 27th March, as part of the School of Life project, the photos will also be on display in the foyer of Northampton School for Girls, at the intergenerational concert event. 	TA
5.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>In the absence of BC, a statement from him that little or no changes from the last meeting had occurred was recorded. Apologies from BC for not being able to produce the cash flow forecast as requested at a previous Board meeting, but personal commitments and ill health had prevented this.</p> <p>A cheque that had been sent to the printers for the newsletter appeared to have gone astray and a stop on this, together with a replacement had been instigated.</p> <p>Balance on the Board Account is £4074.16 and on the Events Account balance £1745.31 including petty cash held by PW and SF.</p> <p>PW reported that she no longer holds any petty cash and the £70.50 has been handed over to BC.</p>	BC
6.	<p>Facilitator's Report</p> <p>Richmond Villages Roadshows.</p> <p>PW reported that invitations to exhibitors for the Burton Latimer road show had all gone out, and she had received some confirmations.</p> <p>Planning meetings had taken place, and everything was in order for Burton Latimer, and it just remained to receive the £600 from Richmond villages to cover the hire of the two external venues.</p> <p>She added that following a conversation with Kettering Borough Council, it transpired the Roadshow was most opportune, as they were promoting a service for health and blood checks for older people at their offices, and this would be a good opportunity to advertise this. It was also suggested that another Roadshow would be welcome in Kettering Town Centre, but PW explained that the Network were not in a position to fund such an event. However, KBC felt they could be able to help with funding of this. PW felt this was not really viable due to the Network already being involved in 3 roadshows for this year, but they will take a stand at Burton Latimer on 26th April.</p> <p>Support from NCC</p> <p>Ken Ridley who provided admin support for the network had retired on 2nd March, and for the time being this role is being partially covered by Carole Brennecke. SF</p>	

	<p>mentioned that some members had not opened their emails from her as they did not recognise the name. SN suggested an email from PW to all with an explanation of change of staff could rectify this. SF mentioned that she had sent a card on behalf of the Network to thank KR for his work and support, she added the suggestion of perhaps an article with a photograph in the next newsletter about Ken and his involvement with the Network could be appropriate. All agreed this was a good idea.</p> <p>The Board were asked to consider ongoing support requirements up to the retirement of PW at the end of April which will be for 18.5 hours (2.5 days) per week. LP raised the issue that she thought all the Board should have been invited to the meeting on the 26th March, and not just the Officers. PT and TA replied that it was really a matter of space (as the meeting was to be held in a shared office) and parking facilities that prevented this. SN suggested that as this meeting was about transfer of assets + admin support, then perhaps a workshop for the future plans, and to include admin support for the Network, that involved all of the committee could follow, with the Town Centre library as a possible venue.</p> <p>TA added it was important to consider the logistics to continue running the Network SN perhaps one of the Board, or other member would be interested in facilitating moving forward or possible identification of training needs that could be facilitated by NCC. TA added that it was important to review the tasks currently being done by PW in her capacity of facilitator, and perhaps break them down into a more feasible list for those who will be involved. SN suggested the process employed by NCC for make cuts in their business functions, i.e. Identify what is absolutely necessary to keep against what could be managed without.</p> <p>PW added that there had been a volunteer from the members to be involved in doing the membership, and SF said she would like to be able to contact new members in Northampton to let them know what is going on when they join.</p> <p>TA recommended that if the Network were to take over management of the membership database, then off site electronic back-up with a secure external organisation should be strongly considered as added security.</p>	<p>PW</p> <p>Who is doing this?</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Roadshows sponsored by Richmond Villages – Already dealt with under item 6</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>School of Life</p> <p>PT reported on her involvement in the intergenerational concert with the School of Life which will be held at Northampton School for Girls on 27th March. Rehearsals had been held at St Crispin’s retirement village for the older members of the choir, with a final rehearsal on the day with the children from the various schools prior to the commencement of the concert in the evening. She added that tickets for the event would be available through Priti Chavda at NVC, and anyone would be available to come along, and DVDs of the concert would be available later. It had been great fun to be involved with and other up and coming events will be publicised in the NVC School of Life Newsletter. The proposed South Northants School of Life ‘Pop Group’ has not yet materialised as a musical director has not been found. The outdoor ‘survival weekend’ has been rescheduled from January to later in the year when the weather is expected to be a bit warmer.</p> <p>TA reminded everyone that the photos will be available to see at this event.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Extra Time</p> <p>SF reported in her capacity as part of the steering group, that everyone involved had had a wonderful time, but 30 new people were required for the next session(s) which</p>	

	<p>are divided into two. The first - some would be doing Tai Chi and some in the computer room, and then after the coffee break they would change over. It had also involved some taster sessions such as ExTend with Jason, tours of the stadium and been given tickets for matches. The 12 week sessions are scheduled to continue until October 2012 but unfortunately the project hadn't gone according to plan, and some of the same people continuing to attend as a new groups of people could not be found except for a few odd ones joining in from time to time.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Future of the Network</p> <p>Some discussion took place regarding this, and perhaps the Network had not exactly followed its mission statement, and questions were raised about if it wanted to just concentrate on 'Active Ageing' activities or to encompass campaigning. It was also felt that with the loss of support and liaison with NCC, the Network could lose a lot of its intelligence on the needs of older people. It was also pointed out that the Network had not developed as planned, with a shortfall of satellite/Forum groups around the county to be able to engage with and represent.</p> <p>SF said that she had attempted to engage her groups with similar discussions and all they were interested in was events and social activities, and they had no wish to discuss other issues, and this was felt to the case by all the Board.</p> <p>SN responded that NCC held the Network in high esteem with all that it has achieved, and is considered by them as a collective voice for older people in the County, and have often been called upon to be involved with decision making for NCC policies and/or strategies, together engagement for commissioning for tenders, and facilitating customer forum groups. It's about making choices and decisions as to where the Network can best channel its resources. She agreed that only a very small amount of people ever want to get involved, unless it is something pertinent to them, but one of the strengths and legitimacy that the Network has, is membership numbers, which would not be the case if it was not of benefit to them.</p> <p>EH thought one of the problems is that that most of the members do not consider themselves older people, (50 being the new 40) and the issues that the Network try to stand for are really for the 60 – 80 year olds, and quite a lot of over 50s are still working, and perhaps it is an image problem.</p> <p>LP suggested more interaction with the media would be beneficial, and TA responded he has been trying this for some time, but in the case of the Chronicle and Echo, they would not be interested unless there was a human interest aspect or story to any article or editorial, preferably with pictures.</p> <p>JP mentioned that they have BBC Radio Northampton coming to them on the following day as they are taking a group of service users down to Parliament for a massed lobby, which is a story, and if the Network could use something for an editorial then that could be used to promote everything that it does and involved in.</p> <p>TA agreed that the media wanted an angle and he said he will get in touch with his contact at Age UK (Clara Compton?) who has recently been engaged as their communications manager, and who previously worked at the Chronicle and Echo, to discuss any possibilities with her. He went onto suggest, that perhaps the Network could come up with a campaign of some sort for a headline. He illustrated this with something similar that the Daily Mail does on a regular basis.</p> <p>JP suggested linking to other organisations and or special events weeks in June, like 'Falls Prevention' or 'Carer's Week' or Volunteer's Week' but added that the average age of the Age UK catchment group is 75-85, and this age group has a different culture and mentality to 50 – 60 year olds.</p>	<p>TA</p>

	<p>It was agreed that the priority was to decide as a Board what the future of the Network should be, and in this respect a workshop involving everyone would be the most productive way of doing this. Date and venue were discussed e.g. Northampton Central Library or the Velux Centre in Kettering to be arranged before the next Board meeting if possible. A tentative date was suggested for Wednesday 18th April but to be confirmed.</p>	<p>PW – All to attend</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Regional Roundup</p> <p>EH reported that the original Older Peoples Health Forum had been revived and will be funded by the Wellingborough Borough Council will organise, and run it and will just be called the Older People’s Forum. TA asked for details to be added to the website.</p>	<p>EH</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>SN advised of some further NCC consultations on Financial Deputies or Appointeeships. Under the Mental Capacity Act, when it is deemed that a person does not have the capacity to act on their own behalf and where there is no family or carer, NCC often provide someone to help with their finances. There used to be a grant to do that, but this no longer exists. This is not a statutory duty, just the capacity to direct them to where they can access the service. NCC are looking at reviewing this service and putting together a focus group, so the Board may want to look at possible involvement with this. It could be people with brain injury, mental health problems, learning difficulties or an older person who isn’t able to look after their own finances.</p> <p>PT asked if this was linked to Lasting Power of Attorney and SN responded that it was tied up within that, but as an alternative safety net for the individual. Predominately this is likely to be older people and wondered if this was something that one of the members of the board would like an invite to. The main focus group would be with families, and obviously could not consult with users of the service as they are deemed not to have the mental capacity. However at the moment the service is not sustainable so other options need to be explored.</p> <p>PT and MJ expressed an interest in being involved.</p>	<p>PT, MJ</p>
	<p>TA thanked all for attending and the meeting was closed</p>	

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 23rd April 2012 - Weston Favell Parish Hall, NN3 3EP