

Northants 50+ Network - Minutes of Board Meeting

Monday 6th February 2012 from 2pm to 4pm
At the Weston Favell Parish Hall

Present:

John Roberts –Chair (JR) Pam Tomalin –Secretary (PT) Tony Allen -Vice Chair (TA) John Wevill (JW) Judy Sullivan – Carers Partnership Sandra Frampton (SF)

Officers:

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome From the Chair</p> <p>Apologies: Fred Evans, Sonja Noon, Pam Wilton, Liz Percival, Jayantilal Patel, Sonja Noon, Pam Wilton, Brian Cully, Mahmoud Jebli.</p> <p>TA mentioned that he had received a resignation from JP due to ill health, and on behalf of the Board sent him good wishes and to advise that his comments would be passed on and discussed at the next Board Meeting.</p> <p>All agreed his place should be held open should his health improve and he wished to attend at some time in the future. TA to respond to JP to clarify his position and convey the offer. JR added that if he was not going to return it would be good if someone else from his community could attend in his place.</p>	TA
2.	<p>Minutes of meeting 09.01.12</p> <p>These were agreed to be a true record, subject to the following amendments, and were signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Amendments to Page 5 bottom paragraph:</p> <p>“SN responded that the Council run homes provide a high standard of care as evidenced by CQC inspection ratings. Olympus Care is a new company being formed by the County Council as an independent organisation which will deliver care across the County under a service level agreement. This should provide savings for the County Council and the Council will no longer deliver any adult care directly.”</p> <p>Page 6 – Second paragraph: “The discussion was about increasing contributions in line with benefit increases for social care services.”</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>It was reported that SN had reported back all of the Board’s comments and was waiting to hear about the Resource Allocation System and numbers in care.</p> <p>TA asked PT for the amended version of the minutes to go on the website.</p>	PT
3.	<p>Chair’s Report</p> <p>JR reported the two bid applications for funding to the Lottery Fund and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation had both been rejected. He added that it would cost in the region of £45,000 per year to carry on running the 50+ Network without any County</p>	

	<p>Council support, because apart from the facilitator's post there is additional payment 'in kind' such as post and printing and the newsletter.</p> <p>JS suggested trying Lloyds TSB as they are advertising for East Midlands applications. They recently received some supported funding from them for purchase of some laptops for digital inclusion in villages and rural areas, and running computer sessions and road shows in East Northants.</p> <p>JR: Matters relating to the NCC Budget to follow under Item 7 on the Agenda.</p> <p>He added he spoke to Daventry District Housing Tenants' Association about the 50+ Network and recruited 3 new members, and mentioned an activity coordinator was needed in Daventry. PT said that Daventry Leisure Centre had contacted her with a view to reviving the Luncheon/movie club again, but she did not have the time to do anything about it.</p>	
4.	<p>Vice Chair's Report</p> <p>Website</p> <p>TA mentioned that it was brought up at the last Board meeting to see if the NCC could have a page on the 50+ Network website for promoting getting involved with volunteering opportunities and donations with NCC. He had looked at the on-line e-portal for the libraries. PT asked if there was a link on the Network web page to this, but TA pointed out that the cost for an extra page on the website would cost a further £60, so it would be better to link to the NCC website without the need for a dedicated web page. He added that there were also some spaces for advertising left on the 50+ Network site which are charged for. He did not feel it was worth spending another £60 unless the NCC were to fund it as this was their request. He would look at the possibility of linking to the NCC library site without a dedicated page.</p> <p>He continued that visits on the website were in excess of 400 different people for 1 month. There are also Indicators of how much the 400 are using the website and how long they are on the site for.</p> <p>JS suggested using the Do-it website for volunteering opportunities for 50+ Network. She added that they were being swamped with applications and a lot of the vacancies were being applied for by long term job seekers who have to sign up to doing 30 hours compulsory volunteering in a four week period with the potential of having their benefits at risk if they did not do so.</p> <p>PT replied it was not a simple matter of just putting an advert for volunteers on that site, and a full job title and 'job role and description' with a person spec had to be produced on a lengthy form, and it had to be very specific and was almost the same as providing an advert for a 'paid' position. She added that an advert for Secretary for the Board had been sent over 3 years ago to the volunteer centre, with no response to date.</p> <p>TA continued that he had made approaches to the Chronicle and Echo also contacted Local Radio asking for help but had had no response. He will try again with personal contact to both. SF and JS mentioned contacting Suki Somil of BBC Radio Northampton and will provided contact details. TA added Age concern have just taken on a publicity manager who used to work at the C & E and he will follow up with an approach for ideas or contacts, but felt anything would be better</p>	SF/JS

	<p>with a picture and a story.</p> <p>Newsletter</p> <p>TA Suggested re-advertising asking for a volunteer editor and also volunteers to help out or become activity co-ordinators.</p> <p>Report on Weston Favell Parish Hall Management Committee AGM and meeting - 11th Jan 2012</p> <p>Apologies were given for the state of the heating. It was reported that NBC were looking for the community centres to be self-run and will support financially on a reducing scale. The management committee have shown no interest in getting financially involved – re the heating since this was the Council's responsibility. It is possible there will be replacement heating after March, subject to tenders. Considerations for looking for another venue were considered. All agreed to stay at the present venue for now.</p> <p>Intergenerational Activity</p> <p>The intergenerational project – '<i>Character Faces through the Ages</i>' will be active in the Grosvenor Centre on Wednesday 8th February 2012, taking portrait photos of members of the public, some of which will be displayed in the Photographic Exhibition/camera workshop on 17th March between 11.00am - 2.00pm which will be held at Age UK Northampton.</p>	<p>SF/JS</p> <p>TA</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report - In the absence of BC, a statement from him that little or no changes from the last meeting had occurred was recorded.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Facilitator's Report (copies had been provided in the Absence of PW as follows)</p> <p>Roadshows in partnership with Richmond Villages as the Sponsor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent meeting with Marketing Director on 16.1.12 and 3 Roadshows proposed, copy of notes from that meeting circulated by Pam T • Burton Latimer Community Centre, Kettering Borough – Thursday 26th April 2012 • Richmond Village Grange Park, Northampton Borough – Thurs 19th July 2012 • Brigstock Village Hall, Corby Borough – Thurs 27th September 2012 • All will be 1pm – 4.30pm – setting up from 11.30am – out 5pm • Now we will have covered Kettering and Corby areas with Roadshow • Burton Latimer and Brigstock venues rates negotiated and provisionally booked at £110 and £44 respectively. Burton Latimer is much larger than Brigstock venue. • Draft invitation letter to stands done with map for first one • Confirmation of venues to be done and deposit /full payment to be made • Richmond Villages need to be invoiced for the venues booking fees. • Action Planning Meeting arranged Thursday 23rd February at Richmond Village to cover all 3 Roadshows • Proposed invitee list started – see attached. • Venue table plan required to know number of tables each venue accommodates • Activities – demos and taster sessions to be decided then booked 	

	<p>NCC website page highlighting volunteering and donations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony to report back on a website page on N50+ Network for: Getting Involved i.e. Volunteering / opportunities and also Donations • Advise Sara Wilson NCC if we are able to undertake this. <p>Next Newsletter – Spring (March) 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Roberts collating and putting together – contributors emailed by him • Pam W to help John with layout etc., as required • Deadline is Monday 13th February for posting out by early March <p>East Northants Activity Co-ordinators – Thrapston (Deana & Christine)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee Morning – 2nd one – at The Bridge Hotel saw 18 people attend • 5 stayed for lunch • Julia Bolcher from New Horizons came and introduced herself and services i.e will bring games to meetings if required • Next on 16th February – Deana will not be there but others will run it • CRAFT MORNING – to start on 2nd February 10-12noon fortnightly at The Bridge Hotel doing scrabble, crochet, knitting, sewing etc., @ £2 each to cover the coffee to be paid by all direct to Bridge hotel. • Deana states that ‘they are a lovely bunch of people’. <p>Corby Activity Co-ordinators – Mike & Margaret Garlick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not going to retry the Coffee mornings • Have new Tea Dances at West Glebe via Kye Bishop CBC to advertise to members • Corby Cube is also showing films that could be of interest to members. • Hopefully they will get details to John R for the newsletter asap <p>Northampton Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra has a sheet of ones arranged to-date. See list. • All Sheltered Accommodation dates are arranged for the year • Sandra to report on the Extra Time Meeting. • Sandra to report on the Big Band Afternoon started at The Picturedrome in January. 	
7.	<p>NCC Budget Consultation</p> <p>JR reported that the consultation ends tomorrow and this was the opportunity to provide the response from the Board. He had contacted Cllr Robin Brown to find out if he understood that the budget proposals were that NCC were withdrawing support for the Network, as it was not made explicit in the Budget papers. He had advised that his job was to listen to the responses and feedback to the proposals, and following the consultation would then advise the Cabinet.</p> <p>In the question and answer session on 24th January Charlie McNally advised that they were not planning to delete the facilitator’s (Pam Wilton’s) post until 2013.</p>	

	<p>SF suggested that as PW and Ken were retiring, that the Board could perhaps take over part of his tasks, such as membership and some of PWs in an interim period to ensure continuity until the post had been refilled by NCC.</p> <p>JR said he had asked SN several weeks ago, in readiness for not being supported by NCC, to have all the data and information about the members of the Network to be handed over as soon as possible, and she has agreed to that. TA suggested this should include our assets.</p> <p>SF raised the issue of currently having the postal address of the Network at NCC, and wondered if we were 'stand-alone' where the postal address be. There were suggestions for approaching one of the other voluntary sector organisations such as Age UK, or the Volunteer Centre, or a PO box, but SF there would likely be a cost for this. There was general agreement that a registered address would be needed if it were not the NCC. PT mentioned the logistics of collecting mail could potentially be a problem for whoever was doing it. E.g. if from the Northampton Volunteer centre in the town, cost of travel and parking and access during their opening hours would have to be a consideration. Another suggestion was that it could be to one of the Board, but addressed to the Northants Fifty Plus Network.</p> <p>JR continued with the response to the budget proposals, and asked if all were in agreement that it would be the same as had been used in the press statement. He added that he was disappointed that it had fallen on 'stony ground' and that the budget itself appeared to have generated little interest in the local media.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that a final response should be sent along the lines of the press statement and that the Board remained confused by the budget proposals.</p>	
8.	<p>Review of Plan.</p> <p>1. Increase the number of activity co-ordinators and the number of places where activities are offered:</p> <p>1.1 Contact everyone that has ticked 'offer to help' on the membership form</p> <p>PT mentioned that it would not be possible to do this as all membership forms go to Ken at NCC, to which the Board do not have access, or feedback to enable this to happen. SF added that when it has been possible to contact someone they have retracted the offer to help. TA said there is also an article in the Newsletter inviting offers of help. It was agreed to put another article in the next Newsletter</p> <p>1.2 Hold informal meetings with new prospective activity co-ordinators PT mentioned the forthcoming meeting at Richmond Village may have some new activity co-ordinators</p> <p>1.3 Leaflet drop to Sheltered and Private housing complex by volunteers Nothing happened on this and may not be realistic due to lack of volunteers</p> <p>2. Identify the spread of good practice in providing activities</p> <p>2.1 Concentrate on activities that have 'Worked Well'</p> <p>2.2 Support Activity co-ordinators with their own coffee mornings</p> <p>2.3 Encourage coffee morning attendees to share details of groups and organisations that they attend with others in the gathering.</p>	

	<p>8. Secure Adequate income to enable the Network to continue to function. 8.1 Submit bids for funding grants.</p> <p>This had been done, but approach to Lloyds TSB was to be considered. General discussion followed regarding other organisations that provide similar things, and were able to attract funding while this seemed impossible for the 50+ Network.</p> <p>8.2 Make representation to NCC for continued support to be funded in 2012/13 Budget Facilitator's post secured until 2013</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Roadshows sponsored by Richmond Villages</p> <p>Following a meeting with Richmond villages and the offer to sponsor 3 Roadshows in the County, by covering the costs of premises, refreshments, advertising, and entertainment. (Everyone had received initial report on the meeting from PT.) PT reported that she and PW had visited the 3 venues (Richmond Village – Northampton, Burton Latimer and Brigstock) and viewed and measured up for preparing layouts for numbers of exhibitors and visitors to be accommodated. This had now been completed. PW has the list of potential exhibitors and will send out invitations to them. The list of invitees was read to the Board and asked for further suggestions.</p> <p>JS suggested that the East Northants School of Life project could be involved with Brigstock and would like a stand, and will make some enquiries and feedback.</p> <p>PT asked Board members for any help they could give at the events. SF agreed she would be able to help with the July event, JR said he would if available, JW agreed to attend in April and TA would try to attend all.</p> <p>Website advertising was discussed and it was agreed for an article/flyer for each one would be preferable. PT or PW to do this a.s.a.p.</p> <p>TA asked about the publicity and PT replied that Richmond villages had agreed to cover the cost of and offered to take out an advertisement in local papers to promote the events.</p> <p>JW asked for some flyers to promote to the Wellingborough Older People's Forum which is meeting on 17th April, and also agreed to put some posters up in Burton Latimer.</p> <p>PT will utilise her contacts in Brigstock to promote in that area.</p> <p>TA suggested that Parish Magazines would be a good place to promote, and invite local newspaper reporter to attend the events, even better to invite the local MPs, but this needed to be done early as they get booked up well ahead</p> <p>SF asked if there was to be any transport provision. PT understood that Richmond Villages have a mini bus that could be utilised, but did not know of any other arrangements at this stage, but could be discussed at the co-ordinators' meeting on 23rd</p> <p>A short discussion about lack of tables for Richmond Village event, and suggested hiring or borrowing additional tables from elsewhere.</p> <p>JR conveyed the thanks of the board to PW and PT for the work already carried out</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JS</p> <p>PT/PW</p> <p>JW</p> <p>PT</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>School of Life</p> <p>South Northants are doing a music project, but in need of a musical director (flyer to follow for newsletter/website) TA asked for an email as he may know of a possibility for an MD.</p> <p>The Northampton events have been circulated by Priti from NVC. The 'survival' weekend has been postponed until later when the weather is more favourable. PT added there was to be a musical mime event at the Northampton School for Girls in March, but no time to promote in the newsletter, but could go on the website.</p>	

11.	<p>Regional Roundup</p> <p>JR reported that the Daventry Forum now has a new chair Cllr Gina Ogden, and have their Forum next week and Daventry District Council have agreed continuing support.</p> <p>JW reported that Wellingborough District Council have offered £500 to run the Wellingborough Forum for a year with a modification to the name but not too sure who will be running it. Current contact on their website is Jenny Dixon.</p>	
12.	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>All agreed to carry on with the additional 300 copies of the newsletter for the time being. Submission of all articles to JR.</p> <p>SF gave an update of the Extra Time project, the next one starts in April.</p>	
	JR thanked all for attending and the meeting was closed	

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 5th March 2012 Weston Favell Parish Hall, NN3 3EP