

Senior Council for Devon Tiverton Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2009 at 2pm in The Old Heathcoat School Community Centre

Present

David Fradgley (Chairman), Brian Willis (Vice Chairman), Desi Fradgley (Treasurer), Carol Dapp (Secretary), John Stedman, Bob Deed, Richard Money, Ian Kimber, Jose Kimber, Angela Passmore, Robert Gollner, Katie Gollner, Bob Weir and Phil Lloyd.

Apologies

John Austin, Mary Turner, Delphine Nowakowa.

The Chairman welcomed everyone, particularly the new member Richard Money and also Phil Lloyd who had not been able to attend the previous meetings

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read.

Matters arising

Marie Curie Day Centre

A general discussion on care homes developed. Robert Gollner asked why we were not listened to regarding Shaw Care, who were obliged to withdraw their contract.

Jose Kimber said she felt that the state was not prepared to pay the going rate for care. Bob Deed said that private firms could run homes cheaper than the state due to greater efficiency.

Signatures had been collated and sent to Richard Prideaux, who was presenting them in April. However, Hospiscare is taking over the running of this centre, which now has a different venue in Canal Hill

Alzheimer's Day Centre (potential)

This could not be discussed fully, as Margaret McDonald who is engaged in spearheading this, was unable to attend. However Carol Dapp reported that she had been in contact with Margaret and events had come to a temporary halt due to the lack of adequate funding required to provide the specialist training necessary. Further investigations are ongoing.

Increasing membership

Desi Fradgley reported that she had been researching the possibility of using the Pannier Market and that we would be allowed to have a slot free of charge. John Stedman has arranged for two boards plus two banners. Posters are also being printed.

Mid Devon Show

There will be a stand manned jointly with Cullompton.

Any other business

- The Chairman said that we have been invited to visit **Hospiscare at Exeter** together with the Cullompton Senior Council. Date to be arranged.
- **Spotlight TV** recently showed a programme about the poor care of the elderly in Devon and no mention was made of Senior Council's "Ageing Well In Devon Strategy"
- John Stedman mentioned the non-profit making **Enterprise Unit**, from which we are able to get help if needed. This unit had been running for eleven years and had an extensive knowledge of Devon.
- John mentioned **The Strategic Plan** which identified areas to be investigated ie dementia.
- **Bus passes** again came up for discussion. Bob Deed explained that rural areas tended to make a loss and towns a profit. The district where the bus is boarded picks up the tabs. The cost in fact is well above the amount allocated.

Richard Money stated that the bus pass system for pensioners, brought young people against older people, as the youth are not funded. However it was said that the young disabled could get free travel, but the carers for these people do not.

- Angela Passmore said that there was now **free swimming** at the Leisure Centre for the over sixties.
- Bob Deed talked about the possible move of the **Oesophageal Cancer Unit** from Exeter to Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. The public is worried about the distance required to travel. Bob, who is a governor of R. D.& E. has special responsibility for the reduction of infection, which he said had improved recently. Many members felt that the temperature in the hospitals was far too high, which increased the likelihood of infection being transferred.
- Ian Kimber spoke about a **virtual U3A website** he is setting up which would be ideal for members confined to their homes. This would enable people to contact each other about subjects in which they had a particular interest.
- The Vice Chairman said that he was going to attend the **Link A.G.M.** He also said that due to other commitments, he would have to resign as Vice Chairman.
- It was agreed that we would try and man a Tiverton Senior Council stand at The Old Heathcoat School Community Centre's **Open Day on May 4th**.

The meeting was then closed.

Next meeting will be on Thursday 14th May at 2pm in The Old Heathcoat School Community Centre. The A.G.M. will be on Thursday 2nd July.

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