

Minutes of Yell Health Support Group AGM held on 27th August 2009 in Yell Health Centre at 7:00pm

Present: Alexis, Angus, Annette, Mark, Rosie, Naomi, Dan, Hilary and Patricia.

Apologies: Rae, Julia, Winnie and Charlie

Mark opened the meeting by introducing Dr Naomi Reifenberg who is our new associate GP. Dr Ian Buchan has now retired. She will work in a slightly different way from Ian, in that she will work 2-3 days each week with a few larger blocks of work each year so that Mark and Rosie can go away on holiday. Mark also explained to Naomi how the Support Group started, what its aims are and how it has developed over the years. We are still trying to find ways to encourage younger people to get involved with the group.

Minutes of last meeting were read and agreed.

Matters arising:

Planters: Youth club have agreed to repaint these.

Finances: Balance at year end is £4,166. See attached sheet. The current balance is £3,218.

Door between reception areas: There is still nothing happening on this issue.

Meeting of 27th March

Office bearers: Officer bearers will remain as previous years. Mark as Chairman (proposed by Dan, seconded by Angus), Annette as Treasurer (proposed by Mark and seconded by Rosie) and Patricia as Secretary (proposed by Naomi and seconded by Annette).

Constitution: A change to the constitution, in that we will hold a minimum of 2 meetings per year was proposed and seconded by Mark and Annette.

Equipment: Since the last meeting the following items have been purchased:- set of sheets for laying out deceased, boxes to hold palliative care equipment in patient homes, ambulatory blood pressure machine (which Hilary demonstrated) and a new ECG machine had to be bought since the old one broke. Bed cradles have been ordered. Mark, Rosie and Naomi have recently been on a BASICS course which is run by the Sandpiper Trust. This covers all kinds of immediate emergency care. There were a couple of items of equipment which may be purchased in the future – an “easy IO” which is used to pump fluids into the bone and a “cardiac thumper” used instead of manual compressions in the CPR situation. A letter has also been received from Linda Strachan requesting the purchase of Kylie sheets for use by incontinent patients. The idea is that we could have these to hand out so that the patient can try them and then replace to the group.

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Ambulance: Everyone agrees that the new ambulance is great if a bit small. Training issues are still the same as ever. There have been recruitment problems with the ambulance that is to be based in Brae. Annette asked what GPs feelings were on the proposed private ambulance. There is a general feeling that it is a non-starter, there are fears that it will cause confusion among the general public because these may not be staffed by trained paramedics. The motives are good but the idea is probably not feasible. The Health Board appear to be keeping their distance.

The ambulance was then discussed in more depth and it emerged that the ambulance is supposed to be kept garaged so that it can be "plugged in" to the mains electricity to keep batteries charged and fluids warm. This is not happening. Robert Goodlad has offered to keep the ambulance in his garage but SAS appear unwilling to reimburse him for the cost of the electricity. It was agreed that the Support Group would offer to reimburse Robert for this cost if he would keep the ambulance garaged. Mark will speak to Robert about this and also check if he is happy for us, and the Yell Community Council, to petition SAS on his behalf whilst keeping it quiet that we are reimbursing him.

AOB:

Fundraising: It was agreed to hold a non-food hamper raffle again this year. To start gathering items and selling tickets at start of October.

Registrar and students: Dr Kerry Taylor was here from February to August and is now continuing her training at the Gilbert Bain Hospital. There are no plans to have any more registrars soon but there will still be students visiting for short stays.

Car parking: The issue of shortage of parking spaces was raised to the Yell Community Council. At a recent visit by Sandra Laursen, Chief Executive of NHS Shetland, this problem was discussed. She stated that there is no money available to fund extending the car park and since the property belongs to them it is therefore not going to happen.

Next meeting to be held in Yell Health Centre on Thursday 18th February at 7:00pm

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