**Dudley Carers Forum**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**held at 11am via Zoom**

**On Wednesday 21st October 2020**

**Minutes**

* **Present:** Jane Grainger, Martin Pardoe, Paul Acutt, Marilyn and Barry Anderson, Paul Bartley, Peter, Denise and Sarah Robinson and Susan Ridgeway.

**Chairman’s Welcome:** (Added post meeting in Lee’s absence)

Hello and welcome to our virtual on-line Zoom AGM. I trust you are all ok and thank you for staying with us for what has been a difficult year for us all.

We as your committee have been doing a lot of work to keep things moving. Especially Jane with on-line crafts on Zoom and other ways that we can support you. With especial thanks going to Jane and Martin who do the lion’s share of the work .

Please use our on-line support and get in touch if you need our help etc and we will do our best to help you

Hoping for better news soon, I will hand you over to Jane .

* **Minutes of previous AGM (Oct 2019):** The minutes of last year’s meeting had already been circulated. They were proposed a true record by Paul Bartley and seconded by Denise Robinson. All present agreed unanimously.
* **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
* **Treasurers Report:** The accounts have been independently inspected and passed. There were a few mistakes which have been rectified. Full accounts are on separate sheets. No one had any questions.
* **Social/Annual Report:**

As Covid is upon us Carers and the Carers Forum have had to adapt and diversify to survive and continue to serve.

Monthly reports of our activities are summarized as follows

* Newsletters are now much more frequent keeping members informed as to the Covid situation.
* The craft course mentioned last year has begun. Delivering arts and craft course via zoom. The older persons fund who awarded us £3000 for trips is allowing us to use some money towards materials.
* Our monthly meetings have been suspended since April due to Covid.
* An extensive social diary added to the website has been largely redundant but now has a few entries.
* A Chat session has been developed on Friday afternoons.
* A Quiz night was delivered by Zoom
* The grant from Tesco Bags provided funds for our Gala Night/relaunch. 428 hours of respite was delivered and a number of new members signed up.
* A grand raffle raised £557
* Hours respite delivered 1028 through our activities programme including Christmas activities and day trips. A figure much reduced by Covid. However we did celebrate Carers Week in June delivering Cream Teas for carers and their families to enjoy.
* Numbers for the database have reduced to 70. Our privacy policy meant that we had to ask all members to sign up again in May 2020. At the time of creating the database we understood that this would need to be done every 2-3 years. It seems that this is not the case and the privacy policy has been amended to read for life membership. A number of carers did not re-sign. Messages were in the newsletters which were very long due to covid and may not have been read. We are confident that members will come back once meetings are restarted.
* Covid has also impacted on our stalls at shows (none taking place) which has made promotion and fundraising impossible.
* Officers have continued to attend meetings with Carers Alliance and other organizations via Zoom.
* We are looking into ways to connect all carers digitally during this difficult time.
* Funding for 6 months of Zoom was given by ‘Bringing People Together’ Project
* Shopping/errand trips for Carers
* Diverse enquiries dealt with often wide of our usual enquiries and fields of knowledge.
* A befriending chat line is offered.

**Comparing our current accounts with the previous year.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yr end Mar 2019** | **Yr end Mar 2020** |
| **Grants and donations** | £5161.10 | £100  No grants included this years accounts |
| **fundraising** | £588.25 | 1109.75  Grand raffle raised £557 |
| **Social events costs** | £-4744.25 | £571.45 excess  Grants rec’d last year paid for coaches resulting in excess. |
| **Relaunch** |  | £1038.85 excess |
| **Admin expenses** | £782.66 | £910.20  Up £127.54 |
| **promotions** | £405.11 | £466.18  Up £61.07 |
|  |  |  |
| **Excess of income** | -£1168.42 | £1433.67  Up £2602.09 |

Next year’s figures will look very different again. Although we have received Grants of £1100 for Covid resilience and £700 so far of the Grant for trips. Our costs this year are very changed. There has been no fundraising/social events/promotions. Materials for the craft sessions can be used from the trips grant. But the cream teas in June £184.26 and admin costs of £1292.49 have exceeded the £1100 grant by £376.75 already. More funding is being sought.

Current balances

Helpline £834.89

Cash £45.08

Bank £1944.04

Over the past year officers have worked tirelessly representing the Forum and its members at meetings, acquiring new skills and fund-raising.

Last years figure for volunteering was an estimate. Beginning in January I have kept a record and have personally volunteered for nearly 1100 hours alone (Average 27 hours per week). Onto this can be added hours from Oct to Dec and hours worked by other officers. Despite not having any day trips this summer voluntary hours must be at least 2000.

We would like to thank all members who have come along to support us at various events.

Paul Bartley offered thanks to Jane and the committee for all their hard work, seconded by all those present.

* **Election of Officers:** We had very few nominations for officers. But some posts had more than one nomination. When the candidates were approached not all were willing to stand leaving the current Officers nominated for the same posts they already hold. Ie Chair – Lee Murray, Vice – Martin Pardoe, Secretary – Paul Acutt and Treasurer – Jane Grainger. This was confirmed by a show of hands of those present. However we wait for any objections
* **Any Other Business:** None
* **Next AGM:** to take place on Wednesday 6th October 2021 hopefully at Queens Cross TBA.
* **Meeting Closed:** 11.35am.