

Parkinson's UK

Barnsley and District Branch

Minutes of 'virtual' committee meeting held on 8th September 2020

Present

Philip Thompson, Ann-Marie Sephton, Kathie Sharman, George Spencer, Sheila Ireland, Terry Kendall, Ken Booth, Granville Dransfield, Susan Grant, Doris Wragg, Steve Ford (part).

1. Welcome

Philip welcomed everyone to the meeting and particularly Steve Ford, Parkinson's UK Chief Executive.

2. Apologies

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th August 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th August 2020 were agreed as a true record

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Exchange Recovery College – Philip has informed the College that the branch would like to be advertised on their website but we have nothing to offer at the moment.

Penistone Young Farmers' donation – Doris reported that Melvin had been unable to contact the Treasurer as he was on holiday. However, since the meeting he has spoken to the Treasurer who could not tell him when we will receive the donation as the activities they planned since March have had to be cancelled including the AGM where they discuss the charity they will support next year.

Speech therapy – to be discussed under item 5(c)

5. Chair's report

(a) All aspects of restarting

Steve informed the committee that he had replaced his normal meetings with a 'virtual' tour during September to see what life had been like for people with Parkinson's over the past six months. He was trying to see what support they are getting and what the charity needs to take account of. The charity has worked hard to update the website and is trying to encourage people to ring the helpline if they have any issues. They are also offering a wellbeing course where someone will ring the person to see how they are.

Various members of the committee gave an account of their experiences over the last six months and the medical treatment they or their partner had received, which was generally good.

Philip said the branch had been able to maintain two of the services it provides through service level agreements – respite care in the home with Crossroads Care and counselling with Barnsley Hospice. The take-up for respite care had dropped to one person after the lockdown but over the last few months there has been an increase of one person per month taking the full four hours respite care, which now totals six people.

We have also continued to produce the branch's quarterly newsletter. Sheila has prepared the September newsletter together with a questionnaire asking members if and when they would like to return to 'in person' activities. As Parkinson's UK has suggested that we should start with only one activity, members are being asked whether they consider the exercise classes or the branch meetings are the most important and whether they would have any specific concerns. With regard to how soon they would like to start, the options are by the end of this year or next year so there is no pressure on members to make them feel they have to restart. Members have also been asked if they would like to take part in Zoom meetings and, if so, would they give permission for Ken, who hosts the meetings, to have their email address.

Granville informed Steve of the problems he had experienced as Membership Secretary in getting correct information from the membership team. On one occasion he had reported that a member had died and had had an acknowledgement from the membership team but the member was still on the subsequent membership list and the partner had been deleted. On another occasion a couple was so disgusted that one of them had cancelled their membership.

Steve said the branch was not alone in their complaints and he would arrange for a member of the membership team to contact Granville to discuss the matter.

(Steve then left the meeting)

Philip referred to the toolkit and flowchart documents from head office which he had circulated to committee members.

Replies to the restarting questionnaire have been requested by the end of September for discussion at the October committee meeting. In the meantime Philip will contact the Emmanuel to let them know we are consulting our members regarding restarting and ask what would be required of us in terms of precautions and risk assessment. He will also make tentative enquiries at the Metrodome to see if they would have a larger room. Bronia will be invited to the next committee meeting.

(b) South Yorkshire Community Foundation(i) Carers' Day

The Holiday Inn will hold the room hire deposit of £100 until the end of the year. Philip keeps receiving reminders from SYCF regarding completion of the 'end of grant' report despite having told them we have not held the Carers' Day.

(ii) Response and Recovery Grants

Philip reported that he had submitted an application for a recovery grant. The grant has to be spent by the end of the year so he has applied for £2,000 – 3 monthly grants of £500 for respite care in October, November, December and £500 assuming we have two further requests for counselling.

We still have two 'frozen' grants from the Better Barnsley bond and Shawlands Trust.

(iii) Barnsley CCG 'virtual' AGM

Terry reported that since the last meeting he had received a personal letter from the CCG in response to his complaint regarding the lack of funding for speech therapy. Apparently an employee had left at the end of March 2019 and had not been replaced. SWYFT had held the contract for delivering speech therapy but the service was split between the hospital and SWYFT and no impact report had been done. Until Terry had written to the CCG they were not aware that there had been no speech therapy in the borough since March 2019.

Since the matter is in hand Terry will not need to raise the issue at the CCG's AGM.

6. Treasurer's report

The committee noted the income and expenditure statement ending 31st August which shows total income of £8,137.77 against total expenditure of £8,418.96 with a total bank balance of £26,359.75.

7. Service Development report

Included under item 5(a).

8. Assistant Treasurer's report

George reported that six people had taken the full four hours of respite care at £16.40 per session totalling £393.60. There has been an increase of one per month over the last few months.

9. Membership Secretary

No report.

10. Any other urgent and relevant business

No items.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 13th October at 10.30 a.m. Bronia to be invited.

14th September, 2020.

DW