

PARKINSON'S UK

BARNSELEY & DISTRICT BRANCH

Minutes of the committee meeting on 9th November, 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Terry Kendall, Philip Thompson, George Spencer, Sheila Ireland, Ken Booth, Doris Wragg and Susan Grant. Rose Crawley joined us on Zoom.

1. Terry welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies: Ann Marie Sephton

We have had a good start to the opening up of activities following the long break in response to the Covid virus. The first general meeting attracted 40 people. The event was publicised in the Chronicle and focused on the award of a grant from the National Lottery of £7900 to part fund our Respite care programme.

Numbers at the Monday keep fit class have increased from 7 to 12 over the 3 weeks it has been operating and we have welcomed several new members at both events.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2021 (previously circulated), approved.

Corrections, Sue Miller should read Sue Mills.

Kathie said that to be strictly accurate it was the branch of HSBC that was causing problems not the main office. The speaker in January should have been entitled 'My Barnsley Too' not My Barnsley 2.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Terry has made contact with our specialist nurse, Carolyn Turton. He has agreed 2 dates when Carolyn can attend our meetings. Those dates will be March and September. Carolyn has agreed the September meeting would include a question and answer session (questions submitted in advance). A previous system, where an individual made an appointment for after the meeting, was not always a good use of time.

5. Acting Chair's Report, Terry.

a. Rose had reminded Terry that term of office should be limited to 6 years. It is, however possible to change jobs or take a break. The issue of risk assessment was raised again. This requires not only an assessment of the activity but the premises as well. If a meeting has more than 50 people attending then head office need to know.

The second part of the Parkinson's UK publicity campaign 'Time for Can' starts on November 18th. Terry, and most of the committee, had no knowledge of the campaign.

As previously agreed to raise funds, Terry has written to the 18 local funeral directors mentioned on the internet, but as yet, he has no response.

b. Data protection and the interpretation of rules. Under certain circumstances it was important that members of the committee have access to members' information, such as when an exercise class or meeting is cancelled at the last minute. Or when people with Parkinson's want a referral to certain services.

c. Referrals. The members wishing to join the exercise class will be able to contact Bronia directly and she will liaise directly with them. Rose said that this was acceptable, but referrals for the respite care was still under discussion with Rose.

d. Natter Café. The National Trust, who is now responsible for Wentworth Castle and its gardens, have some funding to use and they would like to set up a partners scheme to encourage more people to visit and learn about the trees and plants. The idea is that a 'leader would be trained in different aspects of the house and garden. We would be able to book places in the café and they could probably provide refreshments.

e. Christmas party arrangements. As Ann Marie was unable to attend the meeting we do not have all the details regarding the supply of refreshments. At least 40 names are on the list. Any contributions for the hampers are wanted. They can be brought to the exercise class or contact a member of the committee. Flowers have been ordered for the mayor and the making of the table decorations is in hand. Ian McMillan is not able to attend but is willing to be our President for the coming year.

f. Covid Compliance. George sprayed the tables before they were put in place and sprayed them before they were put away. Kathie offered to wipe the light switches and door handles.

g. Branch meeting. There was some discussion about the layout of the main hall when we have a general meeting. We need more space for wheelchairs so that it is easier to get to a table and to the toilets. To allow more flexibility for our speakers we agreed that Terry would buy 2 lapel microphones so that speakers are hands free. This will overcome the problem of speakers' not being heard when they turn their head away from the handheld microphone.

6. Treasurer's Report, Kathie.

To enable cheques to be paid into HSBC we now need a deposit card for our HSBC account. It was agreed that as we are shortly to be moving over to Barclays we would not bother to obtain the card. As it is a new account we need to arrange signatures for internet access and cheque signing. At present we have £34,056 in the bank including the £7,900 grant from the National Lottery and monies donated in memoriam. There has been nothing so far from Barnsley Bond. In addition Lynda Wragg donated the proceeds from her sale of homemade jams. £325.50 is a magnificent achievement.

7. Secretary's Report, Doris.

Nothing to report

8. Service Development Report, Sheila.

Our next meeting on November 16th will be addressed by Oliver Hill who works for the Cooperative Legal Services.

9. Funding Report, Philip

Philip asked the committee what they thought of the idea of setting up a 'Just Giving' page to try and raise money from our members and anyone else who wishes to donate. The response was positive so Ken said he would produce a specimen page.

Shawlands Trust apologised for losing Philips letter.

Carers' Day next year is likely to be in March.

We need to make sure that our members are aware of what the Barnsley group has to offer. Since we lost the expertise of an adviser who made members aware of support available, the numbers making use of the services has fallen. At present only two members are making use of the respite care and we could fund more hours of respite care and counselling.

Philip was also thinking that he might be able to get some funding. He eventually decided that an application at this point was not necessary.

10 Assistant Treasurer, George.

George said that Margaret Banks rang to say her husband had died. The funeral will be held at Barnsley Crematorium on November 18th at 10.50.

George has paid the respite bill for October. An extra person made use of the service, using 3.5 hours. The total bill was £319.18. There has been no invoice from the hospice since May.

11. Acting Membership Secretary, Ann Marie absent

AOB

The meeting finished at 9.15pm

The next general meeting will be on Tuesday 14th December at Emmanuel at 7pm.