

Gillingham Area Voluntary Car Link Scheme
Registered charity number 1138732

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 5th. July 2018 at 2 pm

Gillingham Town Hall – Jubilee Room

MINUTES:

Present

Members of the organisation and general public totalling 14 including Mark Hebditch (Chair), Ken Smith (Treasurer), Michael Dillon (Secretary), Pauline Avery (Assistant Treasurer), Robert Wellen (Volunteer Support Officer), Lesley Angus (Client Support), Valerie Dewey, Ron Crossman, Eileen Robey, Jeremy Cusden, John Irvine, Martin Wingrove, J. Dylan Booth, Heleena Garrett

1 Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all of those present including the Mayor of Gillingham, Su Hunt and Cllr Barry Von Clemens representing Gillingham Town Council.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from, George Jones, Robert Simmons, Suzan Walker, Philip Walker, Dennis Clarke., Dianne Stuckey, Norman Locke, Anthony Smith, Tony Walker

3 Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 30th. May 2017

It was proposed by Ken Smith and seconded by Michael Dillon that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting and this was agreed by all. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous Annual General Meeting

5. Chairman's Report:

Gillingham Area Car Link (GACL) Charity registration number 1138732

AGM June 5th 2018

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Gillingham Area Car Link AGM. A particular welcome to Councillor Su Hunt, recently installed Mayor, our congratulations, representing Gillingham Town Council. We are very grateful to GTC for their goodwill and support and to Belinda Ridout, the retiring mayor, for her championing of public and community transport.

Before giving a short report on the last year, I would like to introduce the other members of the committee, who are also, of course, trustees of the GACL charity.

The Committee officers are: myself ...

Secretary: Michael Dillon.

Treasurer: Ken Smith, who is ably assisted by Pauline Avery. Ken also manages the web site.

Vice-Chairman and Principal Co-ordinator: Norman Locke

The team is completed by Lesley Angus, *Customer Support Officer*; Robert Wellen, *Volunteer Support officer*; and Valerie Dewey.

I am privileged to work with this team. All are very capable and committed colleagues who get on with their jobs with unfussy efficiency. It is always reassuring to know that new customers will be welcomed and treated with appropriate TLC by Lesley and that should any issues arise in relation to clients or volunteers, we have robust problem-solving procedures in place, managed punctiliously and sensitively by Robert. That's word for word what I said last year - and equally true.

Particular thanks to Lesley for organising the very enjoyable Christmas social at the Royal Chase. Both the venue and the change to a lunchtime seem popular and the Royal Chase has already been booked for the next Xmas meal which will be held on Sunday 9th of December.

As a registered charity we have to justify our charitable status to the Charity Commission and this report is a summary of the evidence that we have indeed fulfilled our core charitable object which is **to provide transport facilities in Gillingham Dorset and the surrounding SP8 area for people who have special need of such facilities because they are elderly, poor or disabled, people with young children, or those living in an isolated area where there are no adequate public transport facilities.**

Resignations from Committee in accordance with Constitution.

Mark Hebditch, Pauline Avery, Lesley Angus

All three agreed to stand for re-election at the AGM

6. Treasurers Report.

Ken Smith, Treasurer had distributed a copy of the 2017 – 2018 accounts to all persons present prior to the meeting starting.

In addition to this Ken gave an excellent power point presentation to the meeting detailing the current financial status of Gillingham Car Link. This was of great value to all persons present

Ken informed the meeting that we were currently in a healthy position financially due in part to a generous donation from Gillingham Town Council of £1000 and contributions from other local firms. The biggest sum of money was received by our ability to claim Gift Aid on the clients' donations. Ken informed the council officers present that as a result of our healthy financial position he would not be applying to the council for a grant this year.

As a result of the above he intended transferring some of the surplus to our savings account. It is a requirement of our charitable status that we have a three month safety net in our finances.

He stated that the current requested donation from the clients would remain the same as in the previous year.

The ultimate aim has always been to reduce the donation request to 45p per mile, which is the Government guideline for the reimbursement for expenses to volunteer drivers.

This having been achieved it will make a considerable difference to our clients.

He emphasised that clients are requested to make a voluntary donation in line with the request in the printed leaflets. If through personal circumstances a client is unable to make the requested donation it does not matter and it is not the driver's problem. We are a charitable organisation.

7 Election to Management Committee

Three members of the committee have stood down at the end of this year in accordance with the constitution; Mark Hebditch, Pauline Avery, Lesley Angus

Michael Dillon proposed and Ken Smith seconded a motion that these members be re-elected. This was agreed by a show of hands by all members present.

Any Other Business:

Sue Hunt the Mayor thanked everyone involved with the Gillingham Car Link, drivers, coordinators, and the management committee for their outstanding work over the last year and emphasised the necessity of organisations like ourselves in view of the cutbacks being imposed both centrally and locally in all areas of finance. She stated her personal commitment and that of the Council to supporting the aims and objectives of the Gillingham Car Link. She said that she would endeavour to appeal for more volunteer drivers through the media.

We have at the current time 18 drivers registered but three of those are currently unavailable due to ill health.

More drivers are needed and everyone present was encouraged to try and persuade more people to become involved

Robert Wellen (VSO) asked that the service provided by the Volunteer Service Dorset in regard to DBS checks was acknowledged. This is an invaluable service to the community and to the Car Link Service.

The adoption of the Chairman's report and Treasurers report was proposed by Michael Dillon and seconded by Lesley Angus. Both reports were adopted.

There being no other matters for discussion the meeting concluded at 2.45pm

