

Minutes of the Community Care Committee Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on 11 December 2008 at 11.00am in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: IF May (chair) R Day HM Smith RLE Waters
Tracey Ebbon – Warden Community Care Scheme
Debbie Driver – Manager Barnabas Court
SJ Daniels - Clerk to the Council

41/12-08 **1 Apologies for absence** - M Ellwood L Harding (Deputy Warden).

42/12-08 **2 Declarations of Interest – personal and/or prejudicial** - none.

43/12-08 **3 Minutes** - the minutes of the meeting of 10 September 08 were approved and signed as a true record.

44/12-08 **4 Mobile Warden Scheme**
Update

There were still 32 clients (26 homes). The employment of a deputy warden had helped TE significantly as she was now able to spend more time with those clients that needed her help. TE’s phone was left on so that clients could contact her at any time. She had recently been called out late evening.

It was **AGREED**

that the chairman and clerk could approve overtime when necessary without having to seek committee’s approval.

Payment of overtime was agreed in this instance.

TE reported the possibility of having a hospital operation during the next year.

The clerk had drawn up a “Vulnerable Adults Policy” which committee approved. He would send a copy to each client. TE attended various NHS courses which covered such areas as Vulnerable Adults and Complaints Procedures.

(51/9-08) TE and the chairman signed two copies of the warden’s contract (Deputy’s to be signed subsequently). (Noted that the minimum holiday requirement in law included bank Holidays – advice from CPALC. This contract therefore allowed the same number of days holiday as agreed in original contract – 27 days + Bank Holidays).

Meeting at SCDC

HMS reported on a meeting held at SCDC (attached to minutes). It was interesting to note that some schemes were struggling to find volunteer helpers and that the Milton scheme had by far the largest number of clients and provided much more than other schemes.

The clerk would apply for grant aid from SCDC. **Action: the clerk** SCDC budget would be agreed in mid February.

45/12-08 **7 Barnabas Court update**

DD reported that the scheme continued to run smoothly.
One resident had recently died and another had broken her femur.
RLEW reported that the cutting of the shrubs on the eastern boundary was in hand.

46/12-08 **9 AOB**

Loft insulation – HMS reported that surveyors were looking at 3 properties. Money would become available in April.

Benefits advice centre – the contact telephone number had been published in the Village View.

Day Centre – the Day Centre was running below capacity. Ideally four new members were needed. The Day Centre committee were exploring the purchase of a supportable microphone to use instead the hearing loop system.

The meeting ended at 11.45am.

Signed.....

Date.....

Report on Community Care warden scheme meeting 27 Oct 2008 at Cambourne

6 schemes were represented, from Milton (35 members), Gt Shelford (16?), Haslingfield (12-16), Harston (6), Mordens and Littlington (18) and Comberton (7). SCDC supports 12 village schemes with 240 members in total.

Also present were 2 organisers from **Age Concern**. They run schemes in Teversham (used to be a PC scheme), Ramsey, Littleport, Histon & Impington, Linton and 7 villages near Haverhill. A total of 125 members. They receive separate grant support from SCDC. Their schemes have a local 'liaison group' for each scheme which meets 6-monthly to give the local perspective and feed back any issues.

Their wardens work 15-25 hours a week, and they have a team of relief wardens to cover sickness and holidays across the area. Members pay £3.30 per week.

Many of the independent schemes had received advice and help from **Care Network**, which sent 2 development workers to the meeting. They organise training for care staff in warden schemes, which is highly thought of. They also run the 'Welcome home from hospital' scheme.

Some schemes had huge demand, others were finding it hard to recruit members. The relationship with the local GP was important – some GPs did not refer members, others misunderstood the limits of what was on offer. Liaison with District Nurses was also important. The Lifeline scheme was running alongside the Community Care Warden scheme in most villages, as in Milton.

Many schemes had difficulty with getting committee members and organisers, volunteers, etc. Trustees and one warden were now in their 80's and really needed younger people to get involved. Some provide weekend cover, either a Saturday visit or both days at the weekend (often the volunteers or committee members are doing this visiting). Some give out the warden's home phone number so she is effectively on call 24-7. This is considered unacceptable. There was a consensus that the warden is not an emergency service and if members require that type of monitoring Social Services should provide it. The role of wardens is to enable older people to retain their independence, not to become dependent.

Most **fees** are similar to ours (£3 a week). Some charge a different fee for couples. Some schemes have a cheaper fee for 'Associate members' who perhaps need holiday cover when their relations are not there, or do not need much help yet, but want to be able to call the warden and become full members more easily in the future, as their details are already on file.

The **conclusion** was that some of the smaller schemes that were struggling with the administration would contact Age Concern with a view to receiving more help from them, or being taken over. Trisha Pope (SCDC officer) had put in a bid to SCDC for extra funding of £12,000 from April 2009, so that each scheme could have an additional grant of £50 per full member, to subsidise the schemes, as it was recognised that these voluntarily-run schemes provide a very cost-effective way of achieving many of the aims of the council in this area. She was confident that this bid had the support of the Leader of council.

Hazel Smith 2 Nov 2008