

Sevenoaks District Seniors Action Forum

Working together in the interests of people aged 50 plus

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Minutes of the AGM held at Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Centre, Hollybush Close
Sevenoaks TN13 3UX.
On Friday 5th July 2024.

Present: Eileen Murray-Giles, Dr. Marilyn Canet, Alan Dixon, John Edwards-Winsor, Gill Shepherd-Coates
MBE, Patricia Downing MBE, Roger House, Jackie Griffiths and 56 members

1. Eileen Murray-Giles welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. The minutes of the 2023 AGM, following additional reading time were approved.
3. Chair's Report (The Report is appended to the main copy of the minutes) Eileen presented the report and the activities of the year. She thanked everyone who contributed to the forum and all the hard work that had been accomplished during the past year.
The need for new volunteers to assist in running the Forum was raised.
4. Treasurer's report- Our Treasurer Chris Towers was unable to attend the meeting, but his report for the financial report the year April 2023/24 was presented to the meeting. Concern was expressed that the small grant that we receive from KCC, via EK360 may be cut or even stopped. This would be extremely bad news as the grant barely covered the cost of producing and posting out the quarterly newsletter. The Treasurers' Full report is appended. David White agreed to stand as Independent Examiner/Auditor, this was approved, and David was thanked for his service. Chris Towers was thanked also, for his work during the past year.
5. Action Group Reports- Alan Dixon gave a comprehensive report on the work of the subgroups. Since the last AGM the Health and Social Care Group had been reinstated, thanks to the leadership of Dr. Marilyn Canet and Mrs. Jackie Griffiths. A crime subgroup had also been initiated, under the leadership of Roger House. The Sub Committee report is appended to the main copy of the minutes.
6. Election of Committee Members- John Edwards- Winsor took over the Chairing the meeting for this item. The following were nominated and elected: -

Eileen Murray-Giles	as a Co-Chair
Gillian Shepherd- Coates	as a Co-Chair
Merilyn Canet	as Vice Chair
Chris Towers	Treasurer
Roger House	
Patricia Downing	
Jackie Griffiths	
Dee Bryan	

Alan Dixon would continue as the Coordinator of the Subgroups.
John Edwards-Winsor SDC representative

7. The Guest Speakers were then invited to speak. A comprehensive talk was given by Jean- Pierre Darque organiser of the HI Kent Support Group, which met monthly at The St. John's Hill United Reformed Church Sevenoaks. Members welcomed to join the group, which would give help and support to those with a hearing loss.

An update of local issues was given by Kent Police and the other stallholders in attendance.

All the speakers were thanked for their contribution and would be available for further questions during the refreshment period.

8. The Future - Gill Shepherd Coates outlined the plans for the following year. The subgroups would continue to work on the many issues raised by members.
Meetings with our two MP's would be arranged at regular intervals and your questions and concerns would be raised with them.
We would continue to respond to consultations and would attend meetings with statutory bodies when invited to do so, in an effort to ensure the voices of seniors heard.
An event is being arranged is being arranged for Silver Week during October 2024. Coffee mornings would be arranged across the district, and we would continue to enrol further members throughout the year.

The quarterly newsletter would be circulated. Members were asked that wherever possible to receive email copies, but we are committed to paper copies for those who do not have email or have difficulties, but the cost of producing the newsletter and posting was a concern.

The need for volunteers to help with events and to strengthen the subgroups was reiterated.

Questions followed and the meeting was closed at 4.20p.m.