



### Osgoldcross Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 at Beal Village Hall.

Members present: Councillors J Adams (in the Chair), B Crossdale, M Shepherd, E Beechey, J Vause, R Dunning, J Davie, R Stephenson, F Blackburn, J Mitchell, J Colbeck, K Westwood, S Gilbert, C Pearson, G Ivey, M Whittles, K Ronksley, A Neto-Claringbold, and Mr D Simpson.

At the request of the Chair, Item 4 was dealt with first.

#### **Item 4. Community Defibrillation Scheme – Setting up the scheme.**

The Chair introduced Mr John Colton. Mr Colton spoke as a resident who helped to set up a community defibrillation scheme which covers Hillam, Monk Fryston and Burton Salmon after a death in one of the villages. That scheme now has 80 volunteers.

Mr Colton explained that when the scheme was initially set up, £4,000 was raised by the residents to buy the first defibrillator machine. Currently, the British Heart Foundation supplies the machines free. Additional equipment is needed and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service decides this.

Mr Colton advised members that immunisation against Hepatitis B should be given to volunteers, even though no mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is given as a “bag and mask” piece of equipment is used, with a simpler piece of equipment supplied in case this fails. A medical waste bag is supplied for the disposal of all non-reusable items such as masks and gloves.

Mr Colton explained that once a 999 call is received, an ambulance is sent if deemed necessary. The average response time until an ambulance arrives at the scene is twenty minutes. If a victim does not receive CPR within eight minutes of their heart stopping, there is virtually no chance of survival.

He then showed members the training unit and explained that the unit would not give an electric shock if the heart is **not** stopped, because it detects a heart rhythm. If, after giving the first shock, it detects the heart has started, it will not give another shock. If the heart has not started, it will give another shock. This feature is because giving a shock to a heart which is beating can cause damage.

Mr Colton said that the scheme that he was involved with started with 28 trained responders. At the time, the ambulance service decided that the training would have to be paid for. The scheme’s organisers wrote to parish councils to ask for funding and received pledges. The ambulance service eventually decided that training would be provided for a very small charge. There are now 17 responders and they receive free training twice a year.

Since May 2004, the scheme has received 24 call-outs. These have been to person fainted (1), genuine heart problems (13), breathing problems (4) epileptic fits (1), falls (1) and false alarms (4). This averages to one call-out every 6 weeks.

Mr Colton then asked if there were any questions.

He was asked about insurance cover to which he replied that they have written confirmation from the Ambulance Service that they are covered by their public liability insurance. However, he advised not to treat somebody “in the street” without a 999 call being made as it was possible that the insurance would not cover this incident.

Mr Colton was asked about the rota system. He said that everybody was full of enthusiasm when the project began but less so now. The co-ordinator rings the volunteers once a month to ask when they can be on-call in the following month. Some volunteers have a regular slot each week, others just a couple of times each month. The project now provides cover 50% of the time with 17 volunteers. When the project began it was 70%. At the times when there is no cover, residents are no worse off than before the project started.

A Member was hesitant in asking how to cope with using the equipment on hairy chests. Mr Colton showed Members a razor that was provided with the equipment and advised them to use common sense, especially when dealing with body piercings, nicotine patches and pacemakers. He said that patches could explode when an electric shock is given and pacemakers could melt.

Another (male) Member asked about treating women. Mr Colton replied that since the scheme began, the full kit had never been used and so he could not say how male responders would react. However, in an emergency, responders’ only concerns would be in saving a life. If a woman later says that she has been assaulted, it should be covered by their insurance if it was following a 999 call.

A Member told Mr Colton that the Forum could obtain funding for the equipment and asked if he was prepared to help set up a scheme in this area. He said he was willing to provide any help he could. Different projects run in different ways but he would provide his experience.

Mr Colton was asked about how many machines he thought would be needed as many villages were far apart. He said that radii would have to be worked out based on response times to decide how many machines would cover the whole area.

A Member asked if G.P’s were supportive of the schemes. Mr Colton said that a G.P. was a responder in their scheme as well as a hospital consultant.

Mr Colton finished his presentation by telling Members that he questioned whether the scheme was worth it when the only call-outs in the first year were false alarms. However, he now considers it to be like a lifeboat – it’s there but we hope that it is never needed.

The Chair thanked Mr Colton for a most informative presentation.

The Chair asked Members for a show of hands on the proposal that the scheme should progress. It was decided that it should and that parish councils should be consulted first to ask if the scheme should cover their village.

### **Item 1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors T Daniel and K Walton.

### **Item 2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Passed as a true record.

### **Item 3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**Item 5. Eggborough Police House – The Forum’s Base and a Resource Centre**

The Secretary updated Members on the proposal to use Eggborough Police House as the Forum’s office and to run the police information desk as a team of volunteers. The office would be available for Members and the public to use the computers for internet access. Funding has been obtained to provide four computers and broadband internet access for 12 months. Members agreed to the proposals.

**Item 6. Payments**

Printer Fuser - £13.50

Postage - £15.36

Website - £32.89

Printer maintenance kit – £9.98

Room hire 22/03/07 - £15.00

All agreed to pay.

**Item 7. Any Other Business**

The Chair told members that the Forum had need of a solicitor and an accountant. Members decided that they would enquire within the organisations if a volunteer would be available.

The Secretary reported that he was attempting to obtain funding to run a first aid course for Village Hall Committee members in the area.

The Chair gave an update on progress in obtaining a youth worker for the area and told members that she and the Vice-chair had recently visited facilities provided by Youth Club North Yorkshire at Thirsk. It was decided that the Secretary would contact all Parish Councils about setting up a youth council for younger children up to the age of 11.

**Item 8. Date and venue of next meeting.**

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 7.00 pm in Kellington Village Hall. It will be the Forum’s AGM.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.