

## SRF AGM MINUTES 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2016

Present: D. Maddison J. Allen O. Dodds J. Falade  
B. Eastick R. Grainger E. Moore T. Kinnair  
M. Todner K. Dagg P. Colborn G. Brewis  
P. Spriggs(PAG)

Apologies: Letchford B. Taylor M. Cassap E. Hunter

1. Doris welcomed everyone to our AGM. We have a guest speaker, Paul, from PAG to answer questions about benefits, welfare reform etc. Paul introduced himself from PAG who gives free and confidential advice for the SR4,5,6 and 8 areas in Sunderland. Shiney Row advice centre deals with the other postcode areas and does an outreach consult at the Hendon Hub every Wednesday. Gary from PAG spends one day a week at The Salvation Army in Southwick to deal with problems. Altogether they see 2300 people in the west and 2300 in the north of the city. PAG does phone advice or an appointment system ( 2 week wait). The main issues are DLA to PIP and Universal Credit. 50% of the benefits bill is for the elderly.

Q. Are there any provision for elderly people who claim Attendance Allowance to claim money for mobility issues?

A. No, only those who claim DLA and are under 65.

Q. Private Pensions being taxed, how can this be avoided?

A. By withdrawing some of their private pension in a lump sum, should seek financial advisers help, or you can get the figures from your pension people and discuss with an advice worker what to do.

The government give approx. £237 a week for a couple in state pension or £151 for a single person, the first £10k of savings is ignored before you pay tax. The government have a white paper going through parliament to abolish Attendance Allowance.

PAG claimed £350k in benefits for people in Ford Estate last year. CAB is looking for an office in central Sunderland to reopen an office here.

PAG are funded by the council to administer assistance and to work in conjunction with the council rights service.

Paul is very willing to attend local customer panels to give them an insight to welfare advice work.

Doris thanked him for his insight to the work done by him and his colleagues.

2. AGM minutes 2015 agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

- Our representative with Gentoo has retired and as yet we don't know who will take his place.
- Facebook page had 147 hits and appears quite popular. Mary asked what the members wanted putting on the page – photos advertise other groups and events going on in the city.

Nominations Chair	D. Maddison	Vice Chair	B. Taylor
Secretary	K. Dagg	Vice Secretary	M. Todner
Treasurer	O. Dodd	Vice Treasure	J. Falade
T. Kinnair/ J. Allen/ G. Brewis / B. Eastick/ M. Cassap/E. Hunter			

Meeting handed back to Doris.

Treasurers report – copies available for all those present. Our 2015-2016 funding was paid 9 months late. Ray to ask Gentoo if we are getting any funding this year. Local residents associations do not know if they are getting funding either. AGM officially closed.

3. Any Other Business

- Website, Dean has offered to update and upgrade our website at a cost of £499. This was agreed as it will cause savings in the long run. Dean has offered to show the secretary how to upload the meeting minutes to the site.
- Preferred charity to support this year was agreed as RNLI.
- Friends of Backhouse Park are holding a free training day on 20<sup>th</sup> June about wildlife surveys, anyone interested to tell Kash.

Next AGM will be 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

Doris invited everyone to enjoy the refreshments.