**Meeting of Andover and District Older People’s Forum held at 2.15pm on July 25th 2019 at the Rendezvous, Union Street, Andover**

**Present** : P Rayner, F North, W North, B Kay, R Hamilton, M Antrobus, W Rayner, M Kerley, J Ray, C Bowling, M Bowling, W Carson, R Skinner, A Pearce, C E Cushnie, David Cushnie, Alldred Collard, Rachel Reid, Margaret Ponting, Peter Ponting, Brian Skinner Rosemary Major (volunteer Age Concern Hampshire ) , D Swaddling, Connie Morrell , Mr Swaddling

**In attendance** : Zoe McManus, Tom Maxted- Pettman

1. **2.15pm Peter Rayner kindly took the chair in the absence of both the chairman and vice chairman. Best wishes sent to Jenny Kay for a speedy recovery. All members welcomed on such a hot day**
2. **Apologies received from :** CR Wheatley, Len Gates, Haydn Watkins Sandra Hawke, Jenny Kay , Gwen Dance.
3. **Minutes of the General Meeting in January** **2019** : chairman took us through page by page as these were lengthy minutes and were proposed as accurate by W Rayner and seconded by B Kay
4. **Matters Arising**
   1. **Website Up-date and questions arising** Wilson Carson reported that this was working well with over 400 hits and increasing people using it. This was also so for the Facebook page. W Rayner recommended it for the helpful information it contained and reminded members of the web address of a.o.p.f.co.uk

M Antrobus noted we had also been contacted directly with a cataract surgery questionnaire for members to consider completing. Also a local vicar wanted to know more about what we do.

* 1. **Response from letter to Kit Malthouse MP** :

The chairman reported that we had had an informative response to our March letter to the MP which Mollie and himself had written as members had requested when they felt that his previous response had not answered all our questions. We had not yet responded as we were awaiting the outcome of any transfer of responsibility.

* 1. **Letter to CCG Chief Executive, Sarah Scofield**

M Antrobus reported she had had no response to this but would leave this to R Hamilton to cover in her report.

* 1. **Matters arising from AGM** – M Antrobus reported that more letters had been sent out as requested by members at the AGM. The chairman emphasised the importance of all members receiving information from us by e mail or mail as we could afford it currently.

B Kay suggested the use of the ‘What’s on in Andover’ website to publicise meetings. Brian Skinner noted that other charities and community groups are having similar problems. .E Collard indicated that Mick Tate was a printer who might be able to assist.

1. **Finance Report**

F North reported on the first quarter of our financial year which is always the most expensive as it includes AGM costs. Our opening balance was £4,300 and closing balance was £4049. Income of £108 was mainly from Marion’s and Jean’s fundraising efforts plus some refreshment donations. Expenditure of £375 covered the second stage of website costs, secretary’s and treasurer’s administrative expenses plus the AGM advertisement in the Andover Advertiser of £135.

M Antrobus proposed the acceptance of the accounts and B Kay seconded this.

1. **Health & Social Care Report** :

R Hamilton gave a detailed report starting with the history of the birth of the NHS and its development to the present day – highlighting the various developments and how they have influenced the structure of the NHS and how it all works today. Announcements earlier this year indicate further hospital bed closures and more care in the community with primary care having 20,000 more staff. She indicated the problems in achieving this , especially recruiting and training staff and getting staff from abroad.

Locally the Hospice is well ahead with its up-grading and extension and the community team are working well

* there was an operational deficit in 2018 ;
* a new initiative of ‘Step into Health’ for ex service men and women ;
* starting apprenticeships for nurses (who will be paid) but NHS England is to relook at the bursary scheme again
* Urgent Treatment Centre at Andover War Memorial put back to 2020
* Emergency orthopaedic surgery to go to Basingstoke and elective orthopaedic surgery to Winchester
* Government Bill on Social Care now delayed 7 times – concern was expressed about this in our letter.
* The Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust is now 400 nurses short.
* Nursing Home closed recently loosing us 30 places for those needing care and 10 places for those with dementia.

The chairman thanked Rosemary for her comprehensive report and copies were given out. M Antrobus suggested that a copy be sent to our MP for his comments and awareness. It will also go on our website and be circulated with minutes.

3pm : **Break for Refreshments**

1. 3.**15pm Legal Issues for Older People**

**The chairman welcomed Zoe McManus, Partner, Head of Private Client Development and Tom Maxted-Pettman, trainee solicitor, who were our guest speakers from Barker, Son & Isherwood solicitors**

Tom and Zoe gave a very comprehensive presentation on the importance of having a will and the problems caused by being intestate. It was recommended that wills should be checked every 5 years to ensure the will still does what you wish it to do. They then concentrated on the fact that by 2026 there will be 14 million people over the age of 65 years. People are living longer and often beyond the age where capacity is lost. They focussed on Lasting Powers of Attorney and the 2 types – one dealing with Property and Financial Affairs and one dealing with Health and Welfare.

They talked through what an attorney does in each case (what they can deal with ) ;

Who you can appoint; what about replacements; the Certificate Provider who signs to certify that you have capacity to make this decision now. Registration with the Office of the Public guardian and what happens if you do not bother.

A useful handout noting points of the presentation was given out as were their contact details.

1. 4pm **Any Other Business**
   1. **Independent Living Fayre for October 2nd 2019**

M Antrobus reported that following our Social Care theme for 2019 the Executive Committee had agreed to a proposal that to celebrate ‘Full of Life’ (the International Day for Older People) and this year we would hold an **Independent Living Fayre on 2nd October 2019 between 1pm – 4pm at the new Leisure Centre.**

We also hope to have a guest speaker and are aiming high with Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care being invited but with no response so far. He may well be far too busy for our small group but I await in eager anticipation to learn what the government is doing to support **Independent Living.**

**Adi will do a session on Falls Prevention.**

**The Leisure Centre can show you what they provide**

There is a café at the Leisure Centre and we will issue all elderly people attending a voucher for a free cup of tea or coffee. Wiltshire Farm Foods have promised free cakes.

So far about 20 organisations have indicated that they wish to attend and provide information about what they can provide to help older people live independently at home for as long as possible.

We have Stannah lifts, DK Mobility Aids, OTs, Mental Health professionals, Cardea, Unity, Hampshire County Council demonstrating their ‘ Connect to Support’ website, the West Hants Clinical Commissioning Group to focus on Out of Hours services , Breath Easy on help for people with COPD and many more.

**DO PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY AND COME AND JOIN US.**

**We will send out more information when we have it but do tell you friends / give them a lift and put up posters for us when we have designed them.**

* 1. **Fundraising Help**

If any of you have a younger son or daughter who might be willing to help with a couple of Car Boot sales and fundraising please contact either Marion Kerley or Mollie Antrobus as we need someone strong enough to help set these up and put them away. We none of us are getting any younger !!

1. **Date and Time of Next Meeting : 24th October 2019 at 2.15pm**