



# Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council

## Village Support Group

**Minutes of Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 6pm, Virtual meeting on Zoom**

Online: Cllr Simon Breese, Cllr Andrew Sage, Cllr Stephen Reading, Cllr David Dobson  
Pat Cooke, Rayna Owens, Fiona Durban

Apologies: - Sarah Daly

Tracey Martin (Minute Taker)

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### Support Group

1. Cllr Breese opened the meeting by asking if the Support Group is doing everything they can. The meeting concluded that residents have local support established from the first lockdown except for some reservations about mental wellbeing / emotional support as the pandemic approaches its anniversary. Fiona Durbin reported that there are 7/8 volunteers who made contact with those identified as vulnerable and no issues were raised.
2. Cllr Sage reported that following an email which he sent to volunteers asking if they are still willing to volunteer that only six people had responded so far saying they are happy to remain on the volunteer list.
3. Fiona Durban raised a concern about residents getting to Covid vaccination appointments if they do not drive. Discussions were had on whether this would be something that volunteers could assist with however, it was agreed at this time due to government guidance which states not getting in a car with someone else that it would be inappropriate to ask our volunteers to do this. Instead, it was reported that Village Cars had offered their services for this purpose and this information should be relayed to any residents who are unable to get to their appointments.
4. 0300 number: Rayna reported that there are now three volunteers covering this. Cllr Sage stated that in the last month he had helped out two residents who had required assistance previously but nothing else had come through.
5. Cllr Breese suggested that we need to send out in the local newsletters and other media channels that the support group is here if needed. Tracey Martin to include Support Group and Laptop Scheme in the Parish Councils submission to Messenger and Contact which is starting up again in February.

**Action: Tracey Martin**

### Repurposing of Laptops

6. Cllr Sage reported that there are 7 laptops out for PAT testing and another 30 in quarantine these have come through Messenger, Three Counties Radio and the Reuse / Repair website and is due to collect another 30 laptops. Following his email to volunteers asking for help with Laptops for Kids Cllr Sage has also received messages from five IT specialists offering their services for repurposing the laptops. Cllr Breese to upload instructions onto the Parish Council website for ease of access. **Action: Cllr Breese**
7. Cllr Breese reported that he'd had discussions with Longwick Parish Council and that the Support Group are prepared to help to a certain point and will provide all the instructions and documentation to Longwick Parish Council but they should find somebody to coordinate the scheme for their parish. Tracey Martin to report back to Longwick Parish Council.

**Action: Tracey**

8. Discussions were had on the database and how the laptops are tracked. Cllr Sage reported that he has his own spreadsheet which tracks the laptops and gives each laptop an individual number upon receipt. After much discussion it was decided this was complimentary to Cllr Breese's spreadsheet which acts a useful checklist for tracking the build of each PC.
9. It was agreed that additional USB sticks would be required as the new volunteers would need these. Clerk to order 20 USB sticks for delivery to Cllr Dobson who will load them with the required software.  
**Action: Clerk**
10. It was agreed that a Zoom meeting would be beneficial for the five volunteers who had offered to assist with wiping and loading the laptops. The proposed date for this is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm. Cllr Sage to confirm.  
**Action: Cllr Sage**  
Pat Cooke stated that he would be happy to assist with the laptops if any of the volunteers fall through.
11. Discussions were had on how the laptops will be distributed / allocated once over 70 have been PAT tested, wiped and loaded as in all probability this may be too many for Bledlow Ridge school. Enquiries will be made of the Headteacher of Bledlow Ridge School to establish their requirements including how many children are in school currently because they do not have a laptop at home.  
**Action: Cllr Reading**

#### **Publicity**

12. Cllr Sage reported that he has done one post on Facebook recently and sent out an email to volunteers however, is concerned that some parents at Bledlow Ridge School are unaware of the Laptops for Kids scheme. Cllr Reading reported that it had been on the School Twitter feed.
13. Rayna Owens volunteered to put a modified version of the post which went out to volunteers onto Facebook highlighting the Support Group is still here and that the Support Group is still accepting laptops.  
**Action: Rayna Owens**

#### **AOB**

14. It was agreed that mileage could be claimed as Cllr Sage had done over 150 miles in one day collecting laptops. Cllr Sage explained that all he sought was a contribution rather than the full 45p/mile government rate.
15. Cllr Reading raised a concern about the financial state of groups and societies in the Parish as Covid has prevented much fundraising and that he would like to make it known that the Parish Council is interested in helping organisations having cash flow issues. It was agreed that organisations should approach the Parish Council direct. All support group members were asked to help spread the word.

**Next meeting: as the need arises**

**Meeting closed at 7.15pm**