

**Minutes of the Coeliac West Sussex Local Group AGM
Held on Saturday 14th March 2020 at 12:00 at Angmering Village Hall**

Welcome and introduction

Gillian Carr – Treasurer
Lisa Warring - Admin assistant
Mike Butler – Minutes sec

Apologies for absence (committee)

Tracey Martin, Ros Buckland

Other apologies:

Helen Pinn
Helen Blake
Christine Stevens
Veronica Saunders
Shirley Verene
John & Nicky Johnson
Maria Hodgkiss
Anne Romer
Mr & Mrs Millyard
Christine Blake

Minutes of last AGM – were approved unanimously

Committee – The existing committee has been functioning well since it reduced in numbers at the last AGM although for the last few months without a group organiser (required post).
The following committee members are standing down: Dena Kitchener and Ros Buckland.

In the absence of any other volunteers it was proposed that Mike Butler fill the position of Group Organiser in a caretaker capacity for 1 year. This was proposed and seconded by John Kitchener and Heather Knight. It was passed unanimously.

The meeting was also notified that Helen Blake has been invited by the committee to attend committee meetings. One of her particular interests is in helping children cope with Coeliac disease.

Review of 2019

With much sadness the passing of our former Group Organiser Anna Henderson was remembered with a brief tribute to her work; her enthusiastic efforts on our behalf were celebrated with a sustained round of applause.

The highlight of the year was another Butlin's day for Coeliac children which (based on the feedback received) was once again well received and appreciated by those attending.

Coffee mornings in Hassocks, Worthing and Chichester continue on a regular basis although the Horsham event has been discontinued due to lack of support.

Other ad-hoc meals and events were staged by local groups and organised by committee and non-committee members alike.

Group Finances (Gillian Carr)

Gillian presented the accounts to the meeting.

The opening balance as at 01/01/19 was £2,694.60

Income totalled £3,868.60 and expenditure totalled £4,211.50

The closing balance as at 31/12/19 was £2,351.70.

The overall reduction was largely due to the cost of the new banner, the newsletter expenses and the AGM costs.

Gillian also reported that during the second half of 2019 the newsletter became self-financing from a distribution viewpoint. Many members who were receiving theirs via Post Office-mail agreed to receive futures issues on e-mail.

Further, all those still requiring a hardcopy version have agreed to pay for the cost of postage in advance.

Anna's Gift

Since the end of 2019 Gillian notified the meeting that Anna had left a total sum of £5,000 to the West Sussex group and had specified that £1,000 be spent on a party. The remaining £4,000 to be at the discretion of the committee mentioning that the well-being of children with Coeliac disease was especially close to Anna's heart.

The Committee expressed their gratitude and delight at Anna's generous gift and that the future use of this considerable sum will naturally be discussed at the next 2020 committee meetings.

Other Business

The floor required the Committee to look at their expenses incurred in attending future committee meetings. No expenses were claimed in the last year but the Committee promised to look at claiming in future for fuel used. The new Group Organiser did confirm that the location of the (roughly) quarterly meetings had recently been moved to from Arundel to Findon; this being more central for the new Committee members.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 12:45

The AGM was immediately followed by a Fish and Chip lunch and a quiz. Grateful thanks to Christine and Richard Stanfield for organising another much enjoyed quiz.